



## Directives and legislation

Information on this page is for German and other European customers

### EC Directive 76/769/EEC (24th amendment)

(Dangerous materials and preparations)

The aim of this directive is to restrict the introduction and use of certain dangerous materials and preparations. Products affected by this change are those which contain

1. Pentabromodiphenyl ether
2. Octabromodiphenyl ether

It was no longer permitted to use these from 15 August 2004 onwards.

→ All products from the R264 catalogue comply with this directive

### EC Directive EU 2006/122/EC (PFOS)

(Perfluorooctansulphonate)

The EC directive 2006/122/EC refers to the use of perfluorooctane sulfonates (PFOS) in the aerospace industry, semi-conductor and electronics industry as well as in the photography business. If the emissions into the environment and exposure in the workplace can be reduced to a minimum, there is no serious danger to the environment or to human health. According to the directive, special attention needs to be given to galvanic processes and surface treatment of metals and plastics. There are notes here on what legislative measures are to be expected. By using the best technology available, it is expected that emissions shall be reduced accordingly. An additional recommendation is to limit PFOS-containing semi-finished products and manufactured items to which PFOS were intentionally added. The directive should apply to new products and not for ones already on the market. Since perfluoro-octanoic acid (PFOA) and its salts represent a similar risk, possible additions to this directive in regard to this group are to be expected. The conversion into national law was planned for 27 Dec 2007 and expected to become effective as of 27 June 2008. A fully galvanized product does not contain any quantities of PFOS.

→ All products from the R264 catalogue comply with this directive

### EC Regulation 1907/2006 – Chemicals regulation (REACH)

(Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation of Chemicals)

This EC regulation centralises and simplifies Europe-wide chemical laws through registration, evaluation and authorisation and came into effect on 1 June 2007. It is the declared objective to increase the level of knowledge of the dangers and risks which arise from chemicals. Here, the companies are given more responsibility for the safe handling of their products. While fasteners are fundamentally compiled by the REACH regulation as so-called products, they are exempted for the most part from the obligation to register through corresponding exceptional rules.

According to Art. 3 REACH regulation, products refer to fasteners. Products are objects whose function is defined not by their material properties (e.g. by the metal components in the alloy) but by their exterior form.

However, according to Art. 7, Section 1 REACH regulation, products must only be registered if they contain chemicals which discharge. This is not the case for fasteners.

Even fasteners with corrosion protection coatings, which thus have a sacrificial coating, that is, a coating which is sacrificed in order to protect the component part, are not subject to having to be registered. The reason for this is that it is not the protective layer which is discharged, but rather specific reaction products. In this respect, the exception ruling of Art. 2, Section 7 (b) REACH regulation is pertinent in conjunction with Attachment V, Section 3 REACH regulation. According to this, materials which were created as a result of a chemical reaction, which used other materials, preparations and products at end-use, and which were not manufactured, introduced or put into circulation as such, are exempted from the duty to register.

The regulations on especially alarming materials (Art. 57, Art. 59, Attachment 14 REACH regulation) in products according to Article 7, Section 2 REACH regulation are not affected by this. While these materials do not need to be registered, they are subject to being reported if

- a) the material in these products is contained in an amount totaling more than one tonne per year and producer/importer and
- b) the material in these products is contained in a concentration of more than 0.1% (mass percentage).

Which materials will be subject to this duty to report still needs to be determined by the European authorities. It is intended that materials like cadmium, mercury, lead, chromium VI, as contained in corrosion protection coatings and as alloy elements, shall belong to this.

However, this duty to report should not usually have any effect on fasteners as the mass quantity of the dangerous material should usually be significantly less than 0.1%. This needs to be inspected accordingly in respective individual cases.

The versions above do not apply to chemical/technical products (e.g. aerosols, adhesives and sealants). Here, this does not refer to products, but to preparations. With preparations, it is not the preparations themselves, but rather their contents which are to be registered. For products manufactured in the EU this registration duty affects the manufacturer, for imports from non-EU countries, this affects the importer.

→ All products from the R264 catalogue comply with this regulation

### EC Directive 89/106/EEC

(Construction products directive)

This directive should ensure that all necessary measures are taken so that the products selected for use in buildings can only be put into operation when they can actually be used. That is, that the buildings have the characteristics for which the products are to be used (be it through assembly, joining, fitting or installation) and they can satisfy the main requirements with proper planning and constructional execution. Fasteners are also affected by this.

→ These products from the R264 catalogue comply with this directive\*

- With CE marking: EN 14399-4, EN 14399-6, EN 14399-8,
- With Ü symbol: DIN 125, DIN 126, DIN 434, DIN 435, DIN 436, DIN 440, DIN 601, DIN 1052, DIN 1440, DIN 1441, DIN 6917, DIN 6918, DIN 7968, DIN 7969, DIN 7989, DIN 7990, ISO 4016, ISO 7089, ISO 7090

\* see the notes on the corresponding products on the price pages