

Name	Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD)
CAS number	25637-99-4 and 3194-55-6
EINECS number	247-148-4 and 281-695-9
What is HBCDD?	HBCDD is a brominated flame retardant, used to establish fire safety in foams, plastics and textile coatings.
Where is it used?	<p>HBCDD is used mainly in polystyrene thermal insulation foams, for building and construction. These foams make a key contribution towards meeting global, national and regional energy efficiency targets.</p> <p>It is also used in coatings for a wide range of textile products, such as roller blinds, cinema screens, awnings and carpets for public buildings, fabrics used in cars and aeroplanes, and as an additive in some HIPS (high impact polystyrene) parts for electrical and electronic appliances.</p>
Why is it used?	Flame retardants are essential to meet fire safety standards and to protect human lives and property from fire. HBCDD currently has no technically and commercially viable alternatives in polystyrene thermal insulation foams, despite intensive research, which the industry is committed to continue. The same applies to some specific textiles applications.
Is it safe?	<p>HBCDD presents no health risks to consumers. This has been established following thorough assessment by EU scientists to identify any potential risks. It is not classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic.</p> <p>However there are some environmental concerns, because HBCDD has been identified as having Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic (PBT) properties, relating to its effects on aquatic organisms, and its presence in the environment. The presence of HBCDD in the environment relates to past emissions; today these are well controlled, as a result of emissions management and monitoring programmes. The European HBCDD industry is cooperating closely with all the relevant European authorities to further reduce these emissions.</p>
Why is HBCDD on the REACH Candidate List?	Substances are placed on the Candidate List for Authorisation based on their <i>potential</i> to cause harm (their hazard) rather than on any <i>actual</i> risk they may pose. HBCDD was included as a result of environmental concerns, based on its PBT properties, as noted above.
Where can I find more information?	<a href="http://www.ebfrip.org">www.ebfrip.org</a> <a href="http://www.vecap.info">www.vecap.info</a>