To our Suppliers

Dear Sir or Madam,

two new changes to European legislation have become relevant for the Otto Group and lead to a ban of the following two substances for the Otto Group as of now:

1. Dimethyl fumarate (CAS No. 624-49-7):
   EU wide legal ban of this biocide (2009/251/EG) also for imported products produced outside EU, often added to the silica gel packet. The limit value is 0.1 mg/kg.
   Dimethylfumarate is a severe contact allergen, which, even at low concentrations, results in severe allergic reactions right up to burn-like injuries when it comes into contact with the skin.

2. Cobalt dichloride (CAS No. 7646-79-9):
   classification of the blue colour indicator in the silica gel drying agent packet as “substance of very high concern” according to REACh. The limit value is “not detectable”.
   This widely used blue colour indicator was, due to its carcinogenic potential, classified as a substance of very high concern (SVHC) in the new European REACh Directive.

In order to avoid moulds, one or more SILICA GEL packet(s) is/are often included with shoes and other products. The primary substance itself, the drying agent silica gel, is inoffensive. The two abovementioned listed substances, often added to the silicagel bags, are hazardous to health.

As of May 1st 2009, the EU has extended the ban of Dimethyl fumarate across Europe also for imported products produced outside EU. This generally concerns all product groups, particularly all types of leather products (shoes, clothing, accessories, and furniture).

Please ensure that all products delivered for the Otto Group, including the packaging, silicagel bags, or other added material (foils, cardboard stripes etc.) are free of Dimethyl fumarate. The limit value is 0.1 mg/kg.

Please ensure that all silica gel bags within the product or the packing delivered for the Otto Group are free of Cobalt dichloride as of now. The limit value is “not detectable”.

Please utilize the attached supplier declaration (Annex 1) for your approval and send it back until August 27th.

Best regards,
Antje Verter
Suppliers declaration for Dimethyl fumarate and Cobalt dichloride

supplier-No. / LKZ  : ________________________  (please fill in your supplier No. / LKZ)
supplier company name: ______________________________________________________  
(please fill in your company name)

We declare with legally binding effect that all goods already supplied to the Otto Group including all parts of the packaging (e.g., Silica gel-drying agent) had contained the following substances:

- **Dimethyl fumarate (biocide)**  
  CAS-Nr. 624-49-7  
  O yes  O no

- **Cobalt dichloride (blue colour indicator in silica gel)**  
  CAS-Nr. 7646-79-9  
  O yes  O no

All shipments as from July 1, 2009 will not contain these abovementioned substances.

Dimethylfumarate  
limit value 0.1 mg/kg
Cobalt dichloride  
limit value is “not detectable”

Name of the authorized signer :
position :
phone :
e-Mail :

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