

Microplastics

Are they a small problem?

Lately, microplastics have been receiving much attention in the media. They are ubiquitous in the environment, having been detected in freshwaters and marine waters and even in remote locations such as the Antarctic and the depths of the ocean. They are also present in drinking water, food, air and the human gut.

Once in the environment, there are concerns that exposure to microplastics could have adverse effects on aquatic organisms and humans, but there is still a lot that we do not know.

How does it affect you?

Due to the media attention, consumers are becoming increasingly concerned about microplastics in the environment and in the products they use, as well as the potential health effects.

Microplastics are also coming to the attention of policy makers and a number of countries have already banned the intentional use of microbeads in some cosmetics.

So, whether you are a manufacturer who uses plastic to produce products or a retailer who sells products containing plastics the issue of microplastics is likely to be on your agenda.

For further information please contact us on:

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How can NCET help?

With all the information that is being released on microplastics, it can be hard to keep up-to-date or sort out the really key information that is relevant to you. NCET can help by:

- Preparing regular summaries of the latest legislation, guidance, consultations and research, to help keep you informed.
- Tailoring the contents and frequency to your business needs.

This will help to:

- Ensure you remain fully compliant with relevant legislation.
- Enable you to proactively contribute to the discussion, rather than simply respond reactively.
- Enhance customer trust, by showing that you want to be part of the solution.

Why come to us?

NCET has:

- Extensive experience in data searching and presenting relevant information in a way that will be useful to our clients.
- Expertise in interpreting information on human health and environmental toxicity.
- A proven track record in providing information on emerging issues, such as microplastics, to various industries.

Fact

Microplastics are small plastic particles, typically below 5 mm in size. They can be released into the environment due to:

- Intentional manufacture and addition to products such as cosmetics, cleaning products and paints; and
- Degradation of larger plastics, textiles and tyres.