

JBCE'S POINTS OF CONCERN REGARDING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S DRAFT REPORT ON THE ELV PROPOSAL¹

INTRODUCTION

Carbon fibres are essential materials in the automotive industry, contributing to vehicle lightweighting, improved fuel efficiency, and greenhouse gas emission reduction. Some proposed amendments in the European Parliament's [draft report](#) could have a significant impact across the industry. JBCE would welcome some clarification to better understand the rationale behind the proposed amendments.

JBCE'S POINTS OF CONCERN AND PROPOSALS

1. Rationale behind the introduction of Carbon Fibres as a Restricted Substance (Amendments 77-79)

Our concern: Why are carbon fibres listed alongside heavy metals (e.g. lead, mercury), despite having a fundamentally different hazard profile?

Amendment 77 - Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 3		
Text proposed by the Commission	Amendment	JBCE's proposal
3. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, vehicle types may contain lead, mercury, cadmium or hexavalent chromium under the conditions and up to the maximum concentration values laid down in Annex III.	3. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, vehicle types may contain carbon fibres , lead, mercury, cadmium or hexavalent chromium under the conditions and up to the maximum concentration values laid down in Annex III.	Reject amendment 77
Amendment 78 - Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1 – point a		
Text proposed by the Commission	Amendment	JBCE's proposal
(a) establishing maximum concentration values up to which the presence of lead, mercury, cadmium or hexavalent chromium in specific parts, components and	(a) establishing maximum concentration values up to which the presence of carbon fibres , lead, mercury, cadmium or hexavalent chromium in specific parts, components and	Reject amendment 78

¹Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on circularity requirements for vehicle design and on management of end-of-life vehicles, amending Regulations (EU) 2018/858 and 2019/1020 and repealing Directives 2000/53/EC and 2005/64/EC - [COM\(2023\) 451 final](#)

homogenous materials of vehicles is to be tolerated;	homogenous materials of vehicles is to be tolerated;	
Amendment 79 - Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1 – point c		
Text proposed by the Commission	Amendment	JBCE's proposal
(c) deleting parts, components and homogenous materials of vehicles from Annex III, if the use of lead, mercury, cadmium or hexavalent chromium is avoidable;	(c) deleting parts, components and homogenous materials of vehicles from Annex III, if the use of carbon fibres , lead, mercury, cadmium or hexavalent chromium is avoidable;	Reject amendment 79
<p>JBCE's reasoning: Carbon fibres are not classified as hazardous materials according to the WHO definition. The fibres are engineered with diameters typically $\geq 5\mu\text{m}$, safely exceeding the WHO's threshold for respirable fibres ($< 3\mu\text{m}$). PAN-based carbon fibres, which dominate automotive and industrial use, are also resistant to cleavage and do not generate respirable fragments during processing.</p> <p>Furthermore, the ELV proposal is not the appropriate legal text to regulate substances of concern for chemical safety reasons, as chemical hazards to health and the environment are already addressed under the REACH Regulation. Any updates to the ELV text should be considered in the context of the current and future revision of this legislation.</p> <p>Adding further provisions on hazardous substances in the ELV text for chemical safety would create a second layer of legislation that would create legal uncertainty and affect the proper implementation in the Member States.</p>		

ABOUT JBCE

Founded in 1999, the Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE) is a leading European organisation representing the interests of over 110 multinational companies. Our members operate across a wide range of sectors, including information and communication technology, electronics, chemicals, automotive, machinery, wholesale trade, precision instruments, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and glass products.

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