

EU formally adopts carcinogens and mutagens Directive second revision

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The European Parliament and Council of Ministers have formally adopted a proposal that will add eight substances to the list of those recognised as causing cancer in the workplace.

This marks the final step in the legislative proposal for the second revision of the carcinogens and mutagens Directive (CMD). Both EU bodies [agreed](#) this in October. The Parliament officially adopted the text on 11 December and the Council did so on 20 December.

The amendment will be published in the *Official Journal* of the European Union and enter into force 20 days later. Member states will then have two years to transpose the Directive into law.

The substances added to the CMD are:

- 4,4'-methylenedianiline;
- epichlorohydrine;
- ethylene dibromide;
- ethylene dichloride;
- trichloroethylene;
- polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons mixtures, particularly those containing benzo[a]pyrene, which are carcinogens within the meaning of the Directive;
- mineral oils that have been used before in internal combustion engines to lubricate and cool the moving parts; and
- diesel.

Marianne Thyssen, EU commissioner for employment, social affairs, skills and labour mobility, welcomed the adoption as providing "better protection for around 20 million workers".

Workers in the chemical, metal and car industry, professional drivers, construction workers and those in the dock and warehouse sector are the most affected.

Ms Thyssen also called on the European Parliament and Council of Ministers to come to a prompt agreement on the Commission's third [proposal](#) for an amendment to the CMD, which would add another five chemicals to the list.