

<http://www.unkonventionelle-gasfoerderung.de/2011/09/29/bruessel-frackingchemikalien-fehlt-europaeische-zulassung/>

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Brussels: Fracking chemicals missing European approval

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The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) reported that, according to an answer on a question to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), for many of the chemicals used in the process of Fracking a European approval in accordance with the REACH directive is missing.

REACH is supposed to standardize the national guidelines for chemicals. It serves the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals. Without the registration of a substance for a particular purpose – in this instance the Fracking - it must not be used.

"Until any of these measures are taken, shale gas operators are not allowed to use a substance which does not fulfill REACH requirements in their activities."

For the following chemicals ECHA has not found any registration:

Methanol

Distillates (petroleum), hydrotreated light

Glutaraldehyde

Hydrochloric acid

Polyacrylamide

Isopropyl alcohol

Ethylene glycol monobutyl ether

Ethylene glycol

Sodium hydroxide

Many of the substances are and have been used in Fracking in Lower Saxony. The EEB believes that companies must now make up the registration within a short time. Otherwise, they face penalties. The enforcement is a matter for the respective Member States concerned.

"Should they fail to comply with such requirements, they would face penalties for non-compliance from Member State enforcement authorities."

The review will continue. In this work, the European Environmental Bureau, initiatives and associations in the affected countries and the European Chemicals Agency are cooperating with each other. The European Commission has no knowledge of any possible violations. Again the respective member States are in charge for investigation and reporting.

Source:

http://guidance.echa.europa.eu/docs/guidance_document/du_en.htm

<http://www.eeb.org>