

## Summary

The Swedish Chemicals Agency works to promote the phasing out of chemical substances with particularly hazardous properties from products and articles that are available to the general public. This is part of our overall work relating to the Government's environmental quality objective of a Non-Toxic Environment and within the Government's assignment for an action plan for a non-toxic everyday environment.

Feminine hygiene products such as sanitary towels, panty liners, tampons and menstrual cups are used regularly by large parts of the population and the Swedish Chemicals Agency has the responsibility for the enforcement of these products. We have therefore conducted a survey of hazardous chemical substances in feminine hygiene products. The survey is part of the Government's assignment to map hazardous chemical substances in products and articles that are available to the general public.

In our survey we conducted studies of literature and qualitative and quantitative chemical analyses of 35 different feminine hygiene products. This means that we studied what hazardous chemical substances the products contain and in what concentrations. We analysed a total of 62 chemical substances. Among these we found 21 hazardous chemical substances mainly in low concentrations and none of the substances are prohibited in these types of products. By low concentrations in this report, we mean concentrations of less than 0.1% weight by weight. In one of the menstrual cups, one of the substances was found at a concentration of 0.2% weight by weight. Altogether, this means that 41 of the substances were not found at all in the feminine hygiene products that we analysed in concentrations above the reporting limit.

We carried out a general risk assessment for 18 of the substances. For three of the substances, there is currently insufficient toxicological data available to conduct a risk assessment. In the Swedish Chemicals Agency's judgement, the risk of negative health effects from exposure to chemical substances in feminine hygiene products is low for the 18 products for which we were able to conduct a risk assessment. This means that we conclude that people can continue to use these feminine hygiene products without worrying about their health. The three substances for which we could not conduct a risk assessment were found in some of the menstrual cups. However, the concentrations of these substances in the menstrual cups were low. Furthermore, there is no information that indicates that these substances constitute a risk.

In our analysis of chemical substances, we found no residues of glyphosate or its degradation product AMPA above the reporting limit, i.e. the lowest concentration that can be measured with statistical certainty in the chemical analysis.

Regarding the three substances for which we could not conduct a risk assessment we will, as part of our overall mapping work and within the framework of the governmental assignment concerning a non-toxic everyday environment, through dialogue with the manufacturing companies and the importers make them aware of the findings in this report. We will also include the substances in the mapping work to assess whether they are chemical substances that the Swedish Chemicals Agency sometime in the future will consider for further measures.