

NB: Unofficial translation; legally binding texts are those in Finnish and Swedish

Government Decision

on prohibitions and restrictions on products containing nickel and its compounds

(2/2000)

Section 1

- (1) This Decision contains provisions on prohibitions and restrictions on products containing nickel and its compounds as laid down in the Appendix.
- (2) The Decision does not apply to research, development work or analysis, or exports outside the European Economic Area.

Section 2

- (1) Compliance with this Decision shall be monitored by the supervisory authorities referred to in the Chemicals Act and Product Safety Act in respect of their own spheres of competence.
- (2) The tests required by the Decision shall be performed in accordance with the SFS-EN standards approved by the Finnish Standards Association.

Section 3

- (1) This Decision enters into force on January 20, 2000.
- (2) Products not in accordance with the requirements of this Decision may not be placed on the market after July 20, 2000.

- (3) Products not in accordance with the requirements of this Decision may not be sold or supplied to consumers after July 20, 2001, unless they have been placed on the market before the entry into force of the Decision.

Appendix

Nickel (CAS No. 7440-0-20, EINECS No. 2311114) and its compounds

Nickel and its compounds may not be used or placed on the market

1. in piercing post assemblies or their parts that are intended to be worn in pierced ears and in other parts of the human body during epithelization of the wound caused by piercing unless such post assemblies or their parts are homogenous and the concentration of nickel – expressed as mass of nickel to total mass – is less than 0.05%.
2. in products intended to come into direct and prolonged contact with skin such as:
 - earrings,
 - necklaces, bracelets and chains, anklets and finger rings,
 - wristwatch cases, watch straps and buckles,
 - spectacle and sunglass frames,
 - rivet buttons, buckles, rivets, zips and metal tags used in garments,

if the rate of nickel release from the parts of these products coming into direct and prolonged contact with the skin is greater than $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{week}$.

3. in products of the type listed in paragraph 2 above where these have a non-nickel coating, unless the coating is sufficient to ensure that the rate of nickel release from those parts of such products coming into direct and prolonged contact with the

skin does not exceed $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{week}$ for a period of at least two years of normal use of the product.