

CONFIRMATION

Consumers want to be on the safe side, certain that the products they use are not harmful. The CE mark and the GS certificate (Tested Safety) are the only marks for product safety regulated under European law.

Since 1st April 2008 the GS mark now also includes a test for PAH – polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. These are natural elements in coal and crude oil, and are found in petrol, fuel oil, tar, bituminous adhesives and paint, as well as the coating of drinking water pipes. PAH are ubiquitous, durable and toxic in large amounts; they are hazardous to the environment and to health. That is why it is advisable to require proof of safety from certain products.

Relevant materials

PAH testing is required for surfaces and components made of elastomers (plastic or rubber handles), black or dark-coloured polymers, coatings and lacquers, as well as materials treated with preservatives (naphtaline), such as natural bristles, leather products, wood. According to expert opinion, however, the plastic unions sold by SERTO do not fall under the scope of the new directive.

Relevant applications

Products are separated into three categories for PAK testing: on the one hand, there are the materials which come into contact with food and those which can be put into the mouth (children's toys) and on the other hand there are materials with short or long-term skin contact (up to or over 30 seconds).

According to pertinent publications on this topic, the water-conducting parts in coffee machines are subject to LFGB (German Food and Feed Code) and are exempt from application of the PAH certificate. All other uses of SERTO products do not fall into any of the three above mentioned categories.

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