

THE CASE OF POSSIBLY CONTAMINATED RAW MATERIALS FROM BASF

BPI has tested and released the first products.

Since the suspicion of possibly contaminated raw materials from chemicals manufacturer BASF hit the European foam industry, Bramming Plast-Industri A/S have been busy procuring test results for all the affected work areas and foam products. The first products have now been released, while alternative products have been acquired to cover the most urgent needs.

At BPI, the autumn holidays were spent i.a. obtaining confirmation of the most recent test results and providing alternative solutions for the customers who were directly afflicted by chemicals manufacturer BASF's suspected raw material deliveries.

"Initially, we concentrated on our own-produced, branded products, and are pleased that the first test results are now available and confirm that no harmful values have been measured in the products," says BPI chief executive – Jesper Brix.

While official statements from BASF remains so vague and ambiguous that the German government – according to national media – has put pressure on the chemicals manufacturer to demonstrate action and solutions, BPI decided to take matters into their own hands.

"Based on own positive product test results via the Danish Technological Institute as well as measurements of the air quality in our production, we decided to initially release our own-produced *)Setex[®]", Jesper Brix continues. Setex[®] is thus released for production and delivery from both BPI's Danish factory in Bramming and their Polish factory in Lipiany.

The Setex[®] product includes some of the foam qualities where raw material components could be traced to BASF, and the product is used in i.a. products which are in close contact with the body – i.e. furniture. The furniture industry accounts for a large part of BPI's activities, why it was important for the company to get all its risks assessed quickly and contain the extent of the damage.

"It is a frustrating situation for all of our affected customers, and we can no longer wait for the situation to evolve with our chemicals supplier. Therefore, we continue to test products ourselves – and will release results as they become available, while processing each case individually and doing anything in our power to procure and provide alternatives for the most urgent needs. Fortunately, we have several supply parameters to enact and are in close contact with the suppliers who can deliver products which are not affected by the contamination issues," Jesper Brix concludes.

BPI recently created a special FAQ on ww.bpi.dk, where customers and business partners are kept informed of the situation and the most common questions answered.

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*) BPI is self-sufficient in Setex[®] – a regenerated granular product composed of several foam grades – used in many contexts; i.a. soundproofing, insulation, noise and vibration dampening of machines, packaging and as padding in furniture. Due to the broad scope of use and because Setex[®] is one of BPI's strongest, self-produced brands, it was important to get this particular product tested and released quickly.