

		<p>ammunition Pb, a direct measure of a background level, including other anthropogenic sources but excluding Pb from ammunition, is not attainable. We therefore apply a novel approach based on temporal trends of Pb and stable Pb isotope ratios to estimate a background environmental Pb level including anthropogenic sources other than ammunition, and arrive at a level that is about one order of magnitude lower than a suggested threshold for subclinical effects. The new estimated background level is close to the levels we found in eagle owl, a non-scavenging species under no influence from spent ammunition (published in 2019 <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s00244-019-00654-5">https://doi.org/10.1007/s00244-019-00654-5</a>). These results show that the contribution of ammunition to the total exposure of Pb in scavengers and predators is much higher than previously realized.</p> <p>Restrictions in the use of Pb-based ammunition have been scattered so far and focused mainly on gunshot and wetlands, and have generally been insufficient to reduce the exposure of predators and scavengers to Pb from ammunition. Our results add new insights into the magnitude of exposure to hunting ammunition, and to the importance of rifle ammunition in this context (hunting of big game).</p> <p><b>Answer to specific info request 13:</b></p> <p>National Veterinary Institute, Department of Pathology and Wildlife Diseases (SVA), SE-75189 Uppsala, Sweden</p> <p><b>Dossier submitter response:</b></p> <p><b>RAC Rapporteurs comments:</b></p> <p><b>SEAC Rapporteurs comments:</b></p>
3349	<p><b>Date:</b> 2021/07/22 12:27</p> <p><b>Content:</b></p>	<p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p>The SK REACH &amp; CLP CA supports the aim of the REACH Regulation - to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment as well as the free circulation of</p>

<p>Scope or restriction option analysis</p> <p>Hazard or exposure</p> <p>Environmental emissions</p> <p>Baseline</p> <p><b>Type:</b> MemberState</p> <p><b>Country:</b> Slovakia</p>	<p>substances on the internal market while enhancing competitiveness and innovation. Where there is a legitimate need for regulation of special uses of chemicals, it is more appropriate to apply regulatory measures within the sector-specific legislation that can better reflect their specificities and contribute to legal certainty.</p> <p>The SK CA generally cannot support proposed restriction on lead in ammunition for outdoor shooting and in fishing tackle as the Annex XV restriction report does not provide comprehensive assessment of risks at EU level fully justifying such a strict restriction of lead in ammunition for civilian uses. In addition, the harmonized classification of massive lead for environmental endpoints has not yet been concluded which also calls the need to address environmental risks at EU level into question. Furthermore, there are several restrictions on the use of lead already in place e.g. general restriction on the use of lead for consumer products based on its reprotoxic properties. Moreover, within the recently adopted restriction on the use of lead gunshot in wetlands for water birds' protection (implementing the international agreement AEWA) there is the possibility for Member States to adopt a total ban on the use of lead gunshot under given conditions.</p> <p>We consider proposed restriction disproportionate to the risks in places where adequate risk management measures can be applied to prevent lead emissions and exposure e.g. in shooting ranges. We do not agree with the ban on the use of lead ammunition in sport. In our view, restriction of lead in ammunition for sport shooting would lead to unequal opportunities and discrimination of European shooters at international competitions. Such countries could not then even organize any events related to the sport shooting. Although the military use of lead ammunition, including the use by police, security and customs forces, does not fall within the scope of the restriction proposal, the proposed restriction could affect the training and preparation of shooters in these areas as well.</p> <p>We are not convinced of the effectiveness, efficiency and enforceability of the proposed ban on the use of lead fishing tackle. Some fishermen may tend to cast fishing tackle themselves and are often not even aware of the health concerns nor new restrictions. Raising awareness about the seriousness of lead toxicity might help even more than the bans themselves.</p> <p>Based on the information of the National Toxicological Information Centre of the Slovak Republic, no deaths or illnesses were recorded in connection with lead exposure / ingestion</p>
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in children and adults. Based on the information of Regional Authority of Public Health in Slovakia - each shooting range can be operated only according to a permission issued by a police department based on a final building approval decision, developed operating rules, testimony of an expert on weapons and explosives and a license for such operation (§ 49 of Act. No. 190/2003 Coll. on firearms and munition). Each business space could be operated only according to a decision of regional public health authority to put it into operation, hygiene requirements laid down by legislation and the requirements regarding environmental factors (§ 13 of Act. No. 355/2007 Coll. on protection, promotion and development of public health). Operators / owners of shooting ranges in Slovakia are responsible for remediation expenses when sites are being decommissioned, they bear the costs of lead removal and processing under the Waste Act. In case legal permits are required to operate a shooting range, applying legislation also refers to the protection of soil, water, human health and noise. Environmental risks are assessed in case of close proximity to or within a protected areas or close to populated areas.

Based on the information of Slovak national administration bodies - lead contamination levels in soil, water and air are regularly monitored and evaluated within the whole country. Monitoring shows long-term continued and constant decline of lead pollution. The highest concentration of lead pollutants in soil and air has been found in areas where no shooting ranges or hunting grounds are located; this pollution is overwhelmingly caused by lead emissions from local industry and power industry (references listed below).

<http://www.shmu.sk/sk/?page=997>

<https://www.enviroportal.sk/spravy/kat21>

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKEwjeobjb4ajlAhVN1qYKHQOaAGYQFjAAegQIAxAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mpsr.sk%2Fdownload.php%3Ffid%3D6594&usq=AOvVaw1r\\_XhIEDi8VcBfcZmx4TqQ](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKEwjeobjb4ajlAhVN1qYKHQOaAGYQFjAAegQIAxAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mpsr.sk%2Fdownload.php%3Ffid%3D6594&usq=AOvVaw1r_XhIEDi8VcBfcZmx4TqQ)

<https://www.enviroportal.sk/indicator/detail?id=321&print=yes>

It is within the Commission's competence to utilize the experiences of ECHA's expert committees RAC and SEAC to assess the scientific validity of the proposed restriction and to consider whether these experts are capable of assessing these specific areas in a qualified

		<p>manner (within their capacities and specialty). All relevant information including the information submitted by stakeholders and the socio-economic considerations need to be taken into account and assessed properly to demonstrate the substantiation of the restriction. If such a comprehensive assessment proves that the use of lead in ammunition for hunting and outdoor sports shooting as well as lead used in fishing tackle pose health and environmental risks justifying the need to implement regulatory measures at EU level, we are of the opinion that the chemicals legislation (REACH) is not the most appropriate legislation for such regulation. The ammunition and arms as well as fishing tackle represent a specific and sensitive area for which sector-specific legislation exists within the EU. Where there is a reasonable need for regulatory measures for such a specific area, they shall be part of a sector-specific legislation while maintaining the flexibility for member states in order to take the individual national specificities into account. Lastly, such regulation shall be workable, enforceable and shall comply with the principles of proportionality and transparency.</p> <p>Comment on the water solubility value used in the Annex XV restriction report:</p> <p>The water solubility of the substance is an important parameter for hazard and risk assessment considering the human health as well as ecotoxicological endpoints, e.g. the bioavailability of the substance etc. The water solubility value of 185 mg / L at 20°C (without reporting a pH value) used in Annex XV report given in the Table 1-2 indicates that the substance is soluble in water. According to ECHA Scientific report for evaluation of limit values for lead and its compounds at the workplace, (October 2019), the water solubility of solid lead is 3.2 mg/L (pH 6, 24 h) 185 mg/L (pH 11). We consider it important to complete the data on water solubility of lead in the Annex XV report.</p> <p><b>Dossier submitter response:</b></p> <p><b>RAC Rapporteurs comments:</b></p> <p><b>SEAC Rapporteurs comments:</b></p>
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