

Information on hazardous substances possibly contained in items supplied by the *Bundeswehr* (Federal Armed Forces)

The German Federal Ministry of Defence informs the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) that items supplied by the Ministry may contain substances classified as hazardous under German environmental law. The handling and disposal of such items is subject to the relevant national regulations.

1. PCP (Pentachlorophenol)

Prior to 1989, the toxic chlorinated hydrocarbon Pentachlorophenol (PCP), through direct treatment, used to be deposited in wooden packaging as well as in leather items and fabrics. Subsequently, cross contamination during storage and transport would cause PCP to also infiltrate more recent wooden packaging, leather items and fabrics that were not treated directly. For this reason, ammunition boxes made from wood as well as bags and leather items should be handled with gloves and not burnt in an open fire as dioxins and furans are released in the combustion process. For disposal, appropriate measures must be taken in accordance with existing environmental legislation so as to prevent danger to the environment.

2. Radioactivity

The MILAN anti-tank guided missile (MILAN ATGM) is fitted with an encapsulated IR heat radiator containing thorium (Th) with an activity of 10 Kilobecquerels (kBq). Contamination may occur through inhalation. As far as the gunner is concerned, the hazard dosage value, pursuant to German radiation protection law, is not exceeded until 100 rounds of ammunition have been fired.

3. VCI paper

VCI (Volatile Corrosion Inhibitor) paper whose combustion generates toxic substances may be used to wrap preserved weapons. Therefore, such paper should be handled with gloves and not burnt in an open fire. For disposal, appropriate measures must be taken in accordance with existing environmental legislation so as to prevent danger to the environment.

4. Batteries

Batteries, especially those containing lithium (Li), must not be burnt, perforated, reloaded or short-circuited. Batteries must not be heated above 70°C. There is a danger of explosion. For disposal, appropriate measures must be taken in accordance with existing environmental legislation so as to prevent danger to the environment.

5. Cadmium-plated/Chromated small parts and plug connectors

The armament system, the MIRA thermal sight, the SVE-2 power supply unit/distributor, and the second echelon maintenance test equipment are **all** fitted with cadmium-plated/chromated plug connectors.

The use of cadmium-plated/chromated components extends to all parts of the system and is not confined to the MIRA thermal sight.

Cadmium, especially its corrosion products, and chromates must be classified as carcinogenic, among other effects. Suitable occupational safety and health (OSH) measures are to be taken so as to avoid inhalation/swallowing of dust or smoke generated through abrasion during grinding off, brushing, cutting or soldering cadmium-plated or chromated components/plugs.

Precautions to be taken, in particular during repair work, include the following:

- Workers must wear a respirator and safety goggles to protect against exposure to dust.
- They are also required to wear disposable gloves.

- Inasmuch as this is not possible for reasons of working technique, hands must be thoroughly cleansed upon completion of work using a hand wash detergent and a brush.
- Smoking, eating and drinking at work is banned. Do not touch food, and do not touch the face (nose/mouth) with the hands prior to thoroughly cleansing them as described above.
- For disposal, appropriate measures must be taken in accordance with existing environmental legislation so as to prevent danger to the environment.

6. **POL (petroleum, oils and lubricants) and associated products**

POL and associated products from vehicles are, inter alia, classified as water pollutants. POL and associated products used during repair work must be collected in suitable and lockable containers. For disposal, appropriate measures must be taken in accordance with existing environmental legislation so as to prevent danger to the environment.