

**Denmark****Strategy to Curb Use of PVC**

The Minister for Environment and Energy, Svend Auken, has unveiled an overall strategy for Danish efforts to clear the environment of PVC, with a new action plan aiming to reduce and phase out the use of plasticisers (or phthalates).

The strategy annuls the voluntary agreement concluded in 1991 between the Environment Ministry and industry. It aims to introduce actions to solve the waste problems caused by PVC consumed in the past, and targets future consumption, ensuring that PVC can only be used in products if justified by life cycle perspectives.

The strategy is based on six overall objectives:

- Banning the use in new PVC products of additives which are harmful to health and the environment.
- Keeping PVC waste out of waste incineration plants, where possible.
- Finding substitutes, where possible, for PVC products which are difficult to separate from other waste in the

waste flow, to avoid PVC in waste incineration plants.

- Developing new treatment technologies to promote recycling of PVC waste.
- Collecting and recycling recyclable PVC.
- Discouraging recycling of PVC containing heavy metals.

The strategy also defines a number of tools for achieving these objectives, including amending the Waste Order, to ensure that PVC is sorted out at the source and collected separately. Further, lead will not be used in plastic.

The Ministry of Taxation and the Environmental Protection Agency have cooperated to prepare models for collection of charges on new PVC products. Other actions are taken under the new phthalates action plan, which indicates seven priority areas and a number of initiatives within specified product groups, for example, cars, floor coverings, toys, etc.