

Editor's Note

My attention has been drawn [1] to a recent paper on 'Trisazo Dyes Derived from 4,4'-diaminodiphenyl Sulphide: Substitutes for C. I. Direct Black 38 and C. I. Direct Green 1' (*Dyes and Pigments* 1996, **31**, 253–262).

Whilst there is an obvious interest in finding replacements for benzidine-based dyes, which are now generally accepted to be carcinogenic, it should be drawn to the reader's attention that 4,4'-diaminodiphenyl sulphide has been concluded [2] to exhibit evidence for carcinogenicity in experimental animals based largely on an NCI bioassay [3]. 4,4'-Diaminodiphenyl sulphide is classified in Germany as a MAK III A2 carcinogen. Dyes derived from it are banned in Germany for use in consumer goods involving more than temporary contact with the skin, under the fourth Amendment to the German Consumer Goods Ordinance [4].

Similar restrictions are under consideration in other European countries and elsewhere.

REFERENCES

1. Communication from Dr E. A. Clarke, Executive Director, ETAD, Basel, Switzerland.
2. *IARC Monographs*, 1982, **27**, 147–154.
3. NCI Technical Rep. Ser. No. 47, DHEW Publisher No. (NIH) 78-847, 1978, Washington DC, United States Government Printing Office.
4. Vierte Verordnung zur Aenderung der Bedarfsgegenständeverordnung, Bundesgesetzblatt, 1995, Teil 1, 954–956.