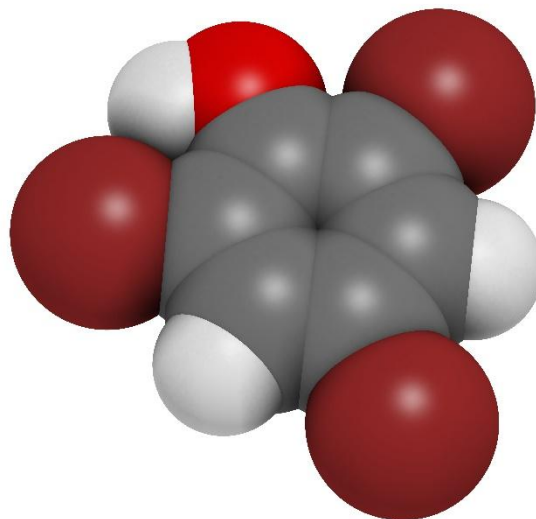


ECHA webinar on aromatic brominated flame retardants: Why it matters for the tape value chain

ECHA is hosting a webinar on **29 January 2026** on its **call for evidence** supporting the preparation of a potential **REACH restriction** for **aromatic brominated flame retardants (ABFRs)**. The session runs **11:00–13:00 Helsinki time (10:00–12:00 CET)**.

[More information and schedule to watch](#)

This is directly relevant for parts of the European adhesive tape value chain, particularly where flame-retardant performance is required or where tape products are supplied into regulated end markets (e.g., electrical and electronics, automotive, building and construction, transport). The direction of travel is towards broader, grouped regulatory action on flame retardants, and ECHA is explicitly signalling that it wants stakeholder data to shape the restriction work and any potential derogations.



What is happening, and what is in scope?

ECHA is preparing restriction work focusing on **“certain non-polymeric” ABFRs** used as additives and is gathering evidence from affected sectors before the restriction dossier progresses.

Afera has already flagged this file within the Regulatory Affairs Working Group’s monitoring, noting that ECHA has been mandated to prepare restriction work on **non-polymeric additive ABFRs**, alongside scrutiny of **organophosphorus flame retardants (OPFRs)**, driven by concerns linked to persistence, bioaccumulation and toxicity and wide use across applications.

Why this matters to the European adhesive tape industry

For tape and label value chains, flame-retardant chemistries can sit in different parts of the construct—not only as “chemicals” purchased as such, but embedded in **polymeric backings, films, foams, laminates, coatings, and components** used in converted solutions. Where ABFR-containing materials are part of an article, potential restriction outcomes can still affect market access, product design choices, qualification timelines, and customer specifications.

Practically, the risk is not only a future “ban scenario”. A restriction process can also introduce:

- New conditions of use (including for articles) and downstream communication expectations
- Acceleration of substitution pressures from OEMs and brand owners
- Supply chain data requests at speed, often on short notice
- Impacts on niche applications where performance and safety requirements are tightly defined.

What ECHA is asking stakeholders to contribute

ECHA’s webinar framing makes clear that the Agency will cover the **scope and objectives** of the call for evidence, **what information is needed and why**, and **how to submit input**—with a strong emphasis on submitting high-quality, decision-useful data.

For Afera Members, the most valuable contributions typically include:

- Where ABFRs may occur in your supply chain (including as additives in purchased materials/components)
- Use descriptions (application context, why flame retardancy is required, and whether exposure/release can be controlled)
- Evidence on technical feasibility of alternatives (including performance trade-offs and qualification lead times)
- Socio-economic information (e.g., impacts on critical applications, investment cycles, and redesign/testing timelines).

How this fits into Afera’s ongoing regulatory work

This file is already on the radar of [Afera’s Regulatory Affairs Working Group \(RAWG\)](#) monitoring. In the [4 December 2025 RAWG meeting update](#), ABFRs were covered as part of the broader REACH restrictions landscape and the Commission mandate activity being tracked, including the upcoming stakeholder webinar.

Afera has also strengthened the way it shares these developments: RAWG outcomes are reflected in quarterly narrative updates and Afera’s Regulatory Affairs website section is being systematically updated following RAWG meetings, with dedicated pages and a “latest developments” approach.

What Members should do now

If your company supplies tapes into applications where flame retardancy is specified (or you suspect ABFRs may be present upstream), treat this as a prompt to prepare—not a “watch and wait” item.

1. **Map potential relevance**
Check whether ABFR-containing materials could enter via backings, films, foams, laminates or purchased components.
2. **Start supplier engagement early**
Ask targeted questions now, so you are not chasing declarations under unrealistic timelines later.
3. **Gather evidence that only industry can provide**
Qualification timelines, performance constraints and the consequences of substitution (including safety and compliance implications) are often decisive in restriction shaping.
4. **Feed intelligence back into Afera’s co-ordination**
Where appropriate, share non-confidential insights with the RAWG so Afera can reflect real-world constraints and use cases in any alignment with adjacent associations and stakeholders.

Join the webinar

ECHA is positioning this webinar as practical guidance on whether the call for evidence applies to your sector and how to provide usable data, with the opportunity to ask questions live.

[More information and schedule to watch the webinar](#)

For additional information, visit www.afera.com.