

## EVOLUTION OF THE INERIS « BPA FREE NO PHENOLS ADDED » CERTIFICATION



The Ineris « BPA Free No phenols added » certification awarded by manufacturer, converters and users of thermal papers evolved. This certification ensures that there are no BPA, BPS, BPF and 12 other phenolic compounds in thermal papers mainly used as receipts.



### THE CERTIFICATION ISSUES

Thermal papers used to be used as stores receipts, parking tickets, queuing tickets but also weighting labels and many other products are made from thermal paper. Those papers are called thermal because they are coated with a thermosensitive layer composed of color developers, active agents and leuco-colorants. The thermal printer heats locally the paper on the thermal coated layer and induce the reaction between the color developers and the leuco-colorants which leads to the dark letters' revelation. The bisphenol A, called "BPA" and its substitutes plays the role of color developers in the thermal sensitive mixture. Since 2016, the BPA is identified as a Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC) and is demonstrated as toxic for reproduction. In 2017 the BPA is classified as an endocrine disruptor for the environment and for human health, that means alters functions of the endocrine system and consequently causes adverse health effects in an intact organism, or its progeny, or (sub)population. The BPA is finally added to the chemical's candidate list for inclusion on Annex XIV "Authorization" of the REACH Regulation (art 59.1, REACH). It is progressively removed and forbidden from industrial processes and everyday items as imposed by the European Regulation UE N° 321/2011 of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 which prohibit the manufacture of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.

After January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, shall not be placed on the market in thermal paper in a concentration equal to or greater than. 0,02 % by weight (entry 66, Annex XVII, REACH). In thermal papers, the BPA is substituted by other bisphenols like bisphenol S (BPS) and bisphenol F (BPF) which might require further attention as there were some concerns relating to their safety. The BPS and BPF are in evaluation by the European Chemical Agency (ECHA).

**For these reasons and following the objectives of being a precursor on risks and present on emerging risks, Ineris is upgrading its certification guaranteeing the absence of fifteen phenolic compounds in thermal papers. Ineris is the only organization to offer such an approach.**

### CONSOLIDATED CERTIFICATION: A NEW APPROACH

This certification follows the first certification proposed by the Ineris in 2017 according to the request of the French Ministry of Energy Transition and Solidarity. This certification awarded by the Ineris is based on the volunteering to support the companies going further the requirements of the regulations. Today the certification is also awarded for convertors (paper cutting and printing plants in accordance with customer specifications, convertors are also suppliers) in addition of manufacturers and end-users. The new certification rules follow all the thermal paper production/distribution chain and allows to share the requirements by all the links.

Specifically, the certification rules are adapted to respond to the needs of each parts of the production/distribution chain based on thermal papers analysis and audit. At the end of the evaluation, The Ineris awards a certificate for the manufacturer, a certificate with an identification number for the convertor and the Ineris trademark use for users.

The end-users companied who have renewed their confidence in 2019:



Commerçants autrement

The convertors pioneers of the certification:



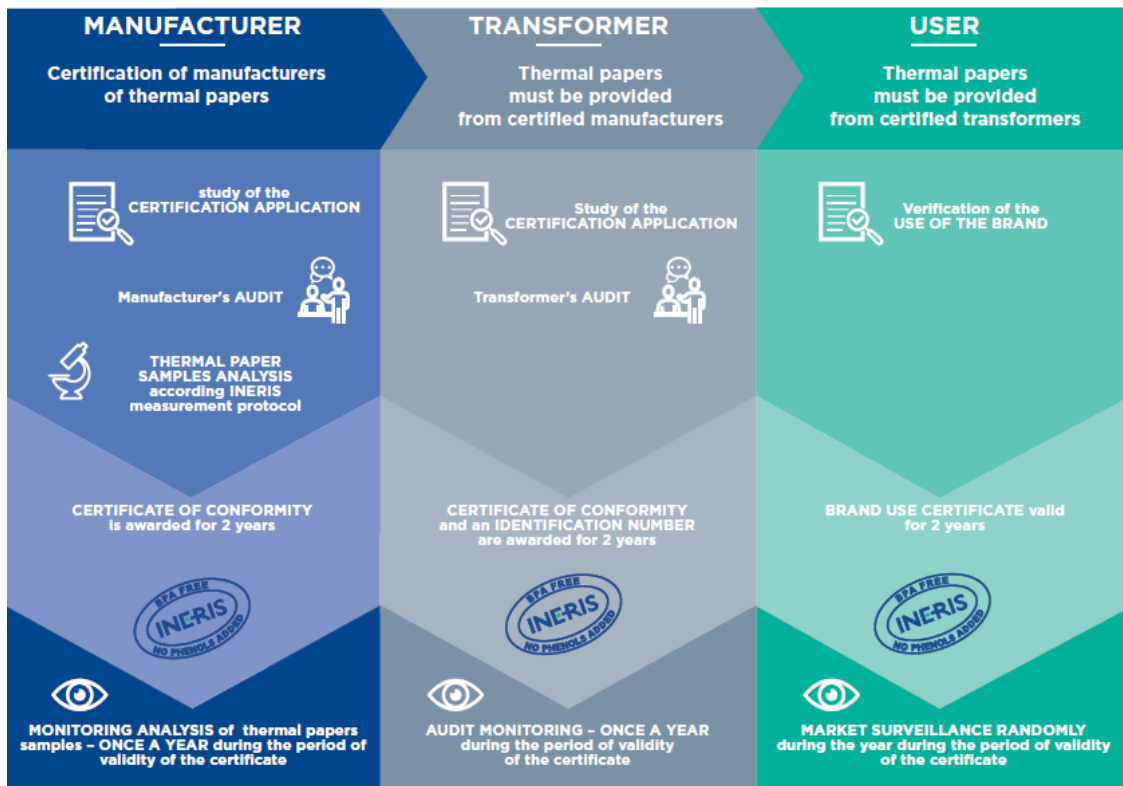
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The list of certified companies is kept up-to-date on the web page associated with the certification:

<https://prestations.ineris.fr/en/node/7434>



**Key words:** Certification, endocrine disruptors, SVHC, reprotoxic, expertise, thermal papers, human safety, workers safety, chemicals, REACH, BPA, BPS, BPF.

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