



5 Steps to nPB Replacement

On **4th July 2020**, n-propyl bromide (a.k.a. 'nPB' or '1-bromopropane') will be banned under REACH regulations from use as a component cleaning agent, except where authorisation to keep using it is granted.

Current users therefore are required to take action to ensure their cleaning processes are compliant. We have put together 5 steps to help users achieve that:

1

Know how the ban affects your type of system

The first step in getting ready for the nPB sunset date is to understand how the ban will affect cleaning systems.

Users of all varieties of cleaning systems will have to stop using nPB from 4th July 2020 and use an alternative cleaning agent.

Fraser Technologies can undertake a full audit and survey of existing equipment to make sure any switch of solvents will be viable and effective. nPB can turn acidic, which corrodes the machinery from the inside. This can make the machines irreparable, so rather than a simple chemistry change, you may need to also repair or replace your equipment.

2

Seek advice

Taking advice from cleaning industry specialists will help users understand the implications of nPB replacement.

At Fraser Technologies we offer a one stop solution to nPB replacement including free expert advice and pre-purchase trials of chemistries and equipment.

Guidance through REACH and other regulations is also provided, ensuring that users understand how to remain compliant irrespective of their type of cleaning system.

3

Take stock of the alternatives

All current nPB users will need to identify new replacement cleaning chemistries for nPB. But caution is advised.

Replacing nPB with restricted solvents such as Perchloroethylene (PERC) or Methylene Chloride (MECL) would only be a short-term alternative as these replacements offer numerous health risks and usage restrictions are set to be put in place. It should be pointed out that these substances PERC and MECL being an R40 based solvent is not deemed to be a suitable nPB alternative.

New generation cleaning agents are worthy of consideration as a replacement. SF80™ by Chemours™, for example, is a drop-in nPB alternative. With superior cleaning performance to nPB and other restricted solvents, it is also safe and extremely eco-friendly with the lowest GWP figure in the market and is not noted in the new F-gas regulations in the same way as older generation fluorinated products that contain HFC or HFE products such as Solvex HD or Novec etc and offers productivity benefits such as a low boiling point resulting in significant reduction in carbon footprint figures.

The new generation range from Opteon™ meets all the new F gas regulations which have been put in place, allowing users to make a one-step replacement saving them time, and ultimately costs.

4

Assess the true cost of alternatives

The total cost in use of cleaning agents is sometimes overlooked. Price per litre should not be the only factor to consider.

Other restricted solvents may have a similar price point to nPB, but this may mask their overall cost in productivity and safety terms.

Restricted solvents, nPB included, continue to be subject to special storage and handling requirements, as well as vapour extraction – all of which are ‘hidden’ costs. Factor in other costs such as yearly compulsory occupational exposure monitoring for users of restricted solvents and the tally is even higher.

Above-mentioned SF80, non-flammable and with a safety exposure limit of 202ppm (ten times better than PERC), eliminates all of these on-costs and can actually boost productivity through energy savings and faster component drying times.

5

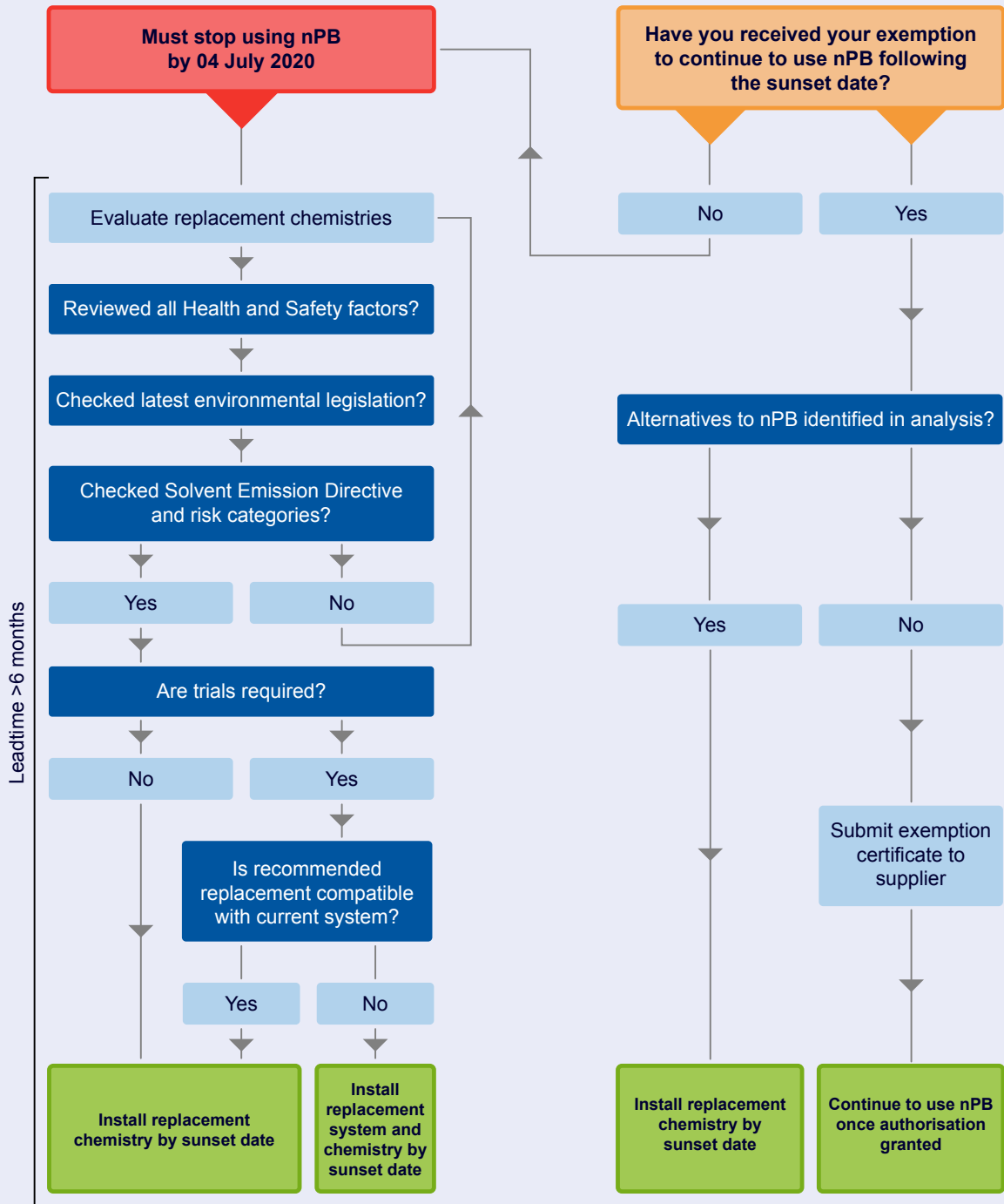
Undertake trials

As the nPB ban edges ever closer, users will need to allow ample time to organise trials of replacement chemistries with their particular components and soil types.

In some cases, users may want to evaluate new cleaning equipment, as well as new cleaning agents, that could speed up cleaning cycles to facilitate higher production volumes, of which equipment lead times currently stand at 6 months.

At Fraser Technologies our one-stop-shop facility includes free customer trial centres in the London and Edinburgh areas. These will allow prospective customers to test out alternative chemistries such as SF80, as well as new equipment if required, before buying, allowing users to make an informed choice into what the best alternative solution is for them.

How the nPB Ban affects all types of Industrial Cleaning Systems



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