

ChemSelect: Example Flame Retardants

Documentation of a case study by Balticfloc



by

Zane Sērmaukša
Balticfloc Ltd, Cesis



Antonia Reihlen,
Ökopol, Hamburg

Dirk Bunke
Ökoinstitut e.V., Freiburg

Editor:

German Environment Agency



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1 Introduction

ChemSelect is an online application that enables formulators and end users of chemicals to assess the sustainability of substances and mixtures. During its development, ChemSelect was tested by various people on many substances and mixtures. This also included comparisons between two products or more that are intended for the same use and differ in their composition. Some of these couples have been selected as examples. They are used in information materials about ChemSelect and also as training material. We use these reports to describe the examples. In these examples, the experiences gained during evaluating the example chemicals are also documented.

To understand the colour scheme: For each criterion, a colour and a number are assigned that indicate the degree of sustainability: **Red**/5 not sustainable; **Green**/1 = sustainable and **yellow**/3 = “in the middle”. If information is missing, the rating is **pink**/4. If no entry has been made for a criterion, it is **grey**/-1. If a criterion is not relevant for a substance or use (e.g. persistent for inorganic substances), a **light blue**/-2 is assigned. Details on the sustainability indicators and the methodology for aggregating the sub-criteria into the main criteria can be found in the evaluation concept.

2 Background information about the products

2.1 Application area and functionality

The evaluated products are flame retardants for use in cellulose insulation materials. The flame retardants are mixed with cellulose (paper strips) at Baltifloc, the company conducting the sustainability assessment. The so-treated insulation material is introduced into the buildings by professional users, i.e. construction companies. During service life, the materials are enclosed, and no direct contact of consumers (inhabitants of the house) is possible. The insulation materials (with the flame retardants) are disposed of, when the building is demolished or renovated. Up to now, no specific recovery and recycling of these insulation materials is assumed to exist.

2.2 Details about the compared flame retardants products

Baltifloc aims to phase out the use of Boric Acid, the currently used flame retardant. Two alternatives are assessed: Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate and a mixture of Potassium Carbonate and Quartz. In the following, only the comparison of Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate with Boric Acid is shown to keep this illustration simple. In the sustainability comparison (c.f. Chapter 4), the mixture is included for a comprehensive overview, too.



3 Assessment

3.1 Lists of problematic substances

Boric Acid

8 Mentioned on problem substance lists

If marked, the substance was found on a list. The comparison was made automatically using the CAS number.

✓ REACH - Candidate List	Stockholm Convention, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
Substances with high global warming potential	Montreal Protocol, Ozone-depleting substances (ODPs)
✓ List of carcinogens, mutagens and reproductive toxicants (CMR list)	✓ Lists: Substances that can damage the hormone system
Non-regulatory lists	
✓ SIN list	Groups of structurally related substances

Resulting properties of the substance

The following checked properties result from the comparison with the problem substance lists.

- ✓ PBT - persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic
- ✓ vPvB - very persistent, very bioaccumulative
- ✓ CMR - carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction
- ✓ EDC - hormonally active substances

Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate

0 Mentioned on problem substance lists

If marked, the substance was found on a list. The comparison was made automatically using the CAS number.

✓ Not found on any list by automatic comparison.

REACH - Candidate List	Stockholm Convention, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
Substances with high global warming potential	Montreal Protocol, Ozone-depleting substances (ODPs)
List of carcinogens, mutagens and reproductive toxicants (CMR list)	Lists: Substances that can damage the hormone system
Non-regulatory lists	
SIN list	Groups of structurally related substances

Boric acid is included in the REACH candidate list and listed as potential EDC. This is the reason for Baltifloc to phase out its use. The Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate is not included in any list of problematic substances

3.2 Physical-chemical properties

Boric Acid

1 Physico-chemical properties

1 Not hazardous regarding PC properties

Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate

1 Physico-chemical properties

1 Not hazardous regarding PC properties

Neither of the two substances has got hazardous physical chemical properties.



3.3 Human toxicity

Boric Acid

Human toxicity

- 5** Carcinogenic, mutagenic and reproductive toxic effects
The substance is KMR on a list of problematic substances.
H360 - May damage fertility or the unborn child.
- 3** Disruption of the hormonal system in humans
Substance is mentioned on the TEDX Colborn list
- 2** Damage if in contact with skin and eyes
- 1** Further damage to human health

The assessment of the human toxicity is based on the hazard statements entered at the beginning. Further information can be taken into account in the assessment of harmful effects on the hormonal system.

Disruption of the hormonal system in humans

Disruption of the hormonal system

Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate

Human toxicity

- 1** Carcinogenic, mutagenic and reproductive toxic effects
- 1** Disruption of the hormonal system in humans
- 1** Damage if in contact with skin and eyes
- 1** Further damage to human health

The assessment of the human toxicity is based on the hazard statements entered at the beginning. Further information can be taken into account in the assessment of harmful effects on the hormonal system.

Disruption of the hormonal system in humans

Disruption of the hormonal system

The substance's CAS number was compared to several lists (Sin list, TEDX-Colburn list, EU ED list) and the classification (H statements EUH380 and EUH381) were checked. You can enter your assessment here with (further) evidence of hormonal effects using the list of the ECHA-ED expert group at:

As already evident from the criterion "List of problematic substances", Boric acid is evaluated as red due to its reproductive toxicity and yellow due to its inclusion on a list of substances with suspected or known ED properties. The alternative, magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate has no classification for human health. Baltifloc also did not find any indications of it being endocrine disrupting.

3.4 Environmental toxicity

In the evaluation of the environmental toxicity the criteria PBT/vPvB and PMT/vPvM are not relevant, because both substances are inorganic. In chemicals risk assessment, of inorganic substances, persistence is not addressed as it is the inherent nature of elements and minerals to persist. Hence, the criteria are bright blue for both substances and not considered in the further assessment. Likewise, long range transport is not evaluated for inorganic substances, either.

Both substances are not toxic to the aquatic environment.

Due to the listing in the TEDX Colborn list, boric acid is evaluated yellow with regard to the endocrine disruption in the environment. As it is not a regulatory but an indicative list, the evaluation is yellow and not red. The list entry cannot be overwritten by the fact that there was no evidence of endocrine disruption found in the literature.



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Boric Acid

3 Environmental toxicity

- 1 Aquatic toxicity
- 2 PBT/vPvB substances and long-distance transport
- 2 PMT/vPvM substances
- 3 Disruptions of the hormone system in the environment

The assessment of the environmental toxicity is based on the hazard statements entered at the beginning. In addition, further information from additional sources can be taken into account for various aspects.

☒ This is an inorganic substance

Aquatic toxicity

This criterion is used to assess the acute and chronic toxicity to aquatic organisms.

Relevant H statements No

There is no classification for aquatic toxicity. Enter data from studies to assess the criterion.

Acute aquatic toxicity (LC50) [mg/l]

Chronic aquatic toxicity (NOEC or EC10) [mg/l]

PBT/vPvB substances and long-distance transport

PBT/vPvB

PBT properties are not relevant for inorganic substances.

Long-distance transport

Long-distance transport is not relevant for inorganic substances.

PMT/vPvM substances

This criterion assesses whether a substance can pose a risk to drinking water supplies due to its persistence (P), its mobility (M) in soil and its toxicity (T).

PMT properties are not relevant for inorganic substances.

Disruptions of the hormone system in the environment

This indicator shows whether a substance can disrupt the hormone system of organisms in the environment. Automatic evaluation of H phrases 430 and 431, the candidate list, the SIN list, the Tedx-Colborn list and the EU ED lists.

☒ Substance is mentioned on the TEDX Colborn list

Endocrine disrupting properties of the substance No evidence of endocrine activity

Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate

1 Environmental toxicity

- 1 Aquatic toxicity
- 2 PBT/vPvB substances and long-distance transport
- 2 PMT/vPvM substances
- 1 Disruptions of the hormone system in the environment

The assessment of the environmental toxicity is based on the hazard statements entered at the beginning. In addition, further information from additional sources can be taken into account for various aspects.

☒ This is an inorganic substance

Aquatic toxicity

This criterion is used to assess the acute and chronic toxicity to aquatic organisms.

Relevant H statements No

There is no classification for aquatic toxicity. Enter data from studies to assess the criterion.

Acute aquatic toxicity (LC50) [mg/l]

Chronic aquatic toxicity (NOEC or EC10) [mg/l]

PBT/vPvB substances and long-distance transport

PBT/vPvB

PBT properties are not relevant for inorganic substances.

Long-distance transport

Long-distance transport is not relevant for inorganic substances.

PMT/vPvM substances

This criterion assesses whether a substance can pose a risk to drinking water supplies due to its persistence (P), its mobility (M) in soil and its toxicity (T).

PMT properties are not relevant for inorganic substances.

Disruptions of the hormone system in the environment

This indicator shows whether a substance can disrupt the hormone system of organisms in the environment. Automatic evaluation of H phrases 430 and 431, the candidate list, the SIN list, the Tedx-Colborn list and the EU ED lists.

Endocrine disrupting properties of the substance No evidence of endocrine activity

Baltifloc entered for Boric acid that they do not have any evidence of endocrine activity. However, as the substance is listed, this does not overwrite the yellow evaluation based on the listing.



3.5 Exposure potential

Boric Acid

1

Exposure potential for workers

1

Exposure potential for consumers

1

Exposure potential for the environment

Even if the exposure potentials are yellow or green here, there may be situations with a very high exposure potential (red). Please, check the detailed results using the tab "evaluation".

Scenario

Application quantities

Parameter

Evaluation

Results

Life cycle	Formulation	Application	Processing Product	Use Product	Waste treatment
Target					
Worker / Dermal	0	32	33	7	33
Worker / Inhalative	0	53	33	1	5
Consumer / Dermal		0		2	
Consumer / Inhalative		0		0	
Consumer / Orally		0		2	
Environment / Water	0	40	27	13	40
Environment / Air	0	2	2	4	6
Environment / Soil	0	2	6	4	6

Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate

←

→

3

Exposure potential for workers

1

Exposure potential for consumers

1

Exposure potential for the environment

i

Even if the exposure potentials are yellow or green here, there may be situations with a very high exposure potential (red). Please, check the detailed results using the tab "evaluation".

Scenario

Application quantities

Parameter

Evaluation

Results

Life cycle	Formulation	Application	Processing Product	Use Product	Waste treatment
Target					
Worker / Dermal	0	48	67	13	67
Worker / Inhalative	0	80	67	2	10
Consumer / Dermal		0		4	
Consumer / Inhalative		0		1	
Consumer / Orally		0		4	
Environment / Water	0	40	27	13	40
Environment / Air	0	2	2	4	6
Environment / Soil	0	2	6	4	6

Both substances are applied in the same “use scenario”. They are mixed with the main insulation materials (“Application”), included in the houses (“Processing Product”), remain in the houses (“use product”) and become waste at the end of the service-life. Hence, the way of application does not differ. The main difference between the two are the uses concentrations, where Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate in the ready-to-use insulation material is higher. This leads to higher exposure potentials for workers via dermal and inhalation exposure during the production of the insulation material as well as its introduction into the housing and the waste treatment stage. Therefore, it is evaluated red in some instances, where it is only yellow for the boric acid.

Please note that the concentration ranges are fixed. Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate “just” crossed the border to the higher category in the evaluation; the actual difference is not so large. Hence, as the evaluation only allows discrete steps, the difference in exposure potential appears greater than it actually is.



3.6 Climate and ozone impacts

Boric Acid

Climate and ozone

- Intrinsic global warming potential
- CO₂ emissions during production
- Ozone-depleting effect

Intrinsic global warming potential

The substance is a solid. Therefore, the global warming potential is considered harmless.

CO₂ emissions during production

Please enter the value for CO₂ emissions during production here and select the appropriate area from the options below. The assessment will be carried out according to your selection from the options. For a number of substances you find figures in the selection list.

Greenhouse gas emissions [kg CO₂ equivalents/kg substance]

Please select the range for aggregated greenhouse gas emissions as kg CO₂ equivalents/kg substance

[Show comparison list](#)

Ozone-depleting effect

The substance is a solid. Therefore, the ozone-depletion effect is considered harmless.

Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate

Climate and ozone

- Intrinsic global warming potential
- CO₂ emissions during production
- Ozone-depleting effect

Intrinsic global warming potential

The substance is a solid. Therefore, the global warming potential is considered harmless.

CO₂ emissions during production

Please enter the value for CO₂ emissions during production here and select the appropriate area from the options below. The assessment will be carried out according to your selection from the options. For a number of substances you find figures in the selection list.

Greenhouse gas emissions [kg CO₂ equivalents/kg substance]

Please select the range for aggregated greenhouse gas emissions as kg CO₂ equivalents/kg substance

[Show comparison list](#)

Ozone-depleting effect

The substance is a solid. Therefore, the ozone-depletion effect is considered harmless.

Both substances are inorganic and not very complex. Their exploration is rather “low effort”, i.e. the CO₂ emissions during their production are relatively low. As both substances are solids, they are evaluated as green regarding their intrinsic greenhouse gas potential and their potential to deplete the ozone layer.

3.7 Resource consumption

For both substances (or very similar substances) Life Cycle Assessments are available, indicating the energy and water consumption during production. The values are included in ChemSelect and the relating ranges are selected from the picklist.

It is unknown whether the extraction of minerals and ores as well as the refinement to obtain the two substances is related to problematic social or ecological consequences. Therefore, the question about raw material consumption is partly answered with “no information”, yielding a pink evaluation for this sub-criterion.



ChemSelect: Assessment of flame retardants in insulation materials

Boric Acid

Calculation by average method

3 Resource consumption

☒ Energy consumption

☒ Water consumption

☐ Consumption of raw materials

Energy consumption

Please enter the energy consumption for the production of 1 kg of substance here. Select the appropriate area from the options below. The evaluation will be based on your selection of options. For a number of substances you find figures in the selection list.

Energy consumption [MJ/kg material]

Energy consumption for the production of 1 kg of substance

[Show comparison list 'Energy consumption'](#)

Water consumption

Please enter the water consumption for the production of 1 kg of substance here. Select the appropriate area from the options below. The evaluation will be based on your selection of options. For a number of substances you find figures in the selection list.

Water consumption [litres/kg substance]

Water consumption for the production of 1 kg of substance

[Show comparison list 'water consumption'](#)

Consumption of raw materials

When assessing raw material consumption, a distinction is first made between renewable raw materials (e.g. starch) and non-renewable raw materials (e.g. metals). Both groups of raw materials can have problematic impacts on people and the environment. It is therefore important to have information about the origin of the raw materials.

☐ (not edited)

☐ The substance is made from RENEWABLE raw materials

☒ The substance is made from NON-RENEWABLE raw materials

☐ The substance is a product of petroleum or natural gas

Non-renewable resources

Answering all of the key questions above requires assessments by the user. The answers for one and the same material may vary from country to country.

Are there problematic social and ecological consequences of raw material extraction?

[Show comparison list for social and environmental impacts](#)

Is it a critical raw material whose availability is questionable in the long term?

[Show comparison list of critical raw materials](#)

Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate

Calculation by average method

3 Resource consumption

☒ Energy consumption

☒ Water consumption

☐ Consumption of raw materials

Energy consumption

Please enter the energy consumption for the production of 1 kg of substance here. Select the appropriate area from the options below. The evaluation will be based on your selection of options. For a number of substances you find figures in the selection list.

Energy consumption [MJ/kg material]

Energy consumption for the production of 1 kg of substance

[Show comparison list 'Energy consumption'](#)

Water consumption

Please enter the water consumption for the production of 1 kg of substance here. Select the appropriate area from the options below. The evaluation will be based on your selection of options. For a number of substances you find figures in the selection list.

Water consumption [litres/kg substance]

Water consumption for the production of 1 kg of substance

[Show comparison list 'water consumption'](#)

Consumption of raw materials

When assessing raw material consumption, a distinction is first made between renewable raw materials (e.g. starch) and non-renewable raw materials (e.g. metals). Both groups of raw materials can have problematic impacts on people and the environment. It is therefore important to have information about the origin of the raw materials.

☐ (not edited)

☐ The substance is made from RENEWABLE raw materials

☒ The substance is made from NON-RENEWABLE raw materials

☐ The substance is a product of petroleum or natural gas

Non-renewable resources

Answering all of the key questions above requires assessments by the user. The answers for one and the same material may vary from country to country.

Are there problematic social and ecological consequences of raw material extraction?

[Show comparison list for social and environmental impacts](#)

Is it a critical raw material whose availability is questionable in the long term?

[Show comparison list of critical raw materials](#)



3.8 Circularity potential

Boric Acid

Calculation by average method

3 Circularity

5 Potential for recovery

1 Potential to contaminate secondary materials

Use scenario

If you want to evaluate a different type of application, change the use scenario in the "Exposure potential" area (navigation on the left) or create a new one in the "use scenarios" area (navigation on the top) and then select it in the "Exposure potential" area.

Flame retardant additive in insulation material

Assessment of chemicals incorporated into/on materials or products

In which material is the substance / mixture used?

Paper

Paper

Please select the most appropriate group of substances (see help)

Inorganic substance

Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate

Calculation by average method

3 Circularity

5 Potential for recovery

1 Potential to contaminate secondary materials

Use scenario

If you want to evaluate a different type of application, change the use scenario in the "Exposure potential" area (navigation on the left) or create a new one in the "use scenarios" area (navigation on the top) and then select it in the "Exposure potential" area.

Flame retardant additive in insulation material

Assessment of chemicals incorporated into/on materials or products

In which material is the substance / mixture used?

Paper

Paper

Please select the most appropriate group of substances (see help)

Inorganic substance

The circularity potential is the same for both substances as they are applied in the same manner.

3.9 Supplier responsibility

Boric Acid

Calculation by average method

3 Supplier's responsibility

1 Taking responsibility for workers

1 Taking responsibility for the environment

4 Taking responsibility for the social environment

Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate

Calculation by average method

3 Supplier's responsibility

1 Taking responsibility for workers

1 Taking responsibility for the environment

3 Taking responsibility for the social environment

Information about the social responsibility of the supplier of boric acid is missing (pink), while of the magnesium sulphate heptahydrate supplier it is known that his social responsibility is medium (yellow).



ChemSelect: Assessment of flame retardants in insulation materials

3.10 Summary

Boric Acid

Aggregated presentation of substance evaluation

i If criteria have not yet been worked on (colour grey), they are either evaluated as "realistic worst case - information need!" (colour pink) in this summary or you are asked to work on the criterion in order to enable the evaluation.

5

Aspect: Particular concern

Mentioned on problem substance lists

Aspect: Indication of risks for health and environment

An exposure scenario for this substance is available.

<div>5</div> Workplace	The substance has properties that are of particular concern. Even if only low levels of exposure are to be expected over the lifetime of the substance, the high level of concern means that there is a high risk potential.
<div>5</div> Consumer	The substance has properties that are of particular concern. Even if only low levels of exposure are to be expected over the lifetime of the substance, the high level of concern means that there is a high risk potential.
<div>3</div> Environment	The substance is rated "yellow" for at least one hazard category. No high levels of exposure occur during the life cycle. This results in a low risk potential.

3

Aspect: Life cycle impacts

Consideration of climate and ozone depletion, resource consumption and circularity.

Magnesium sulphate heptahydrate

Aggregated presentation of substance evaluation

i If criteria have not yet been worked on (colour grey), they are either evaluated as "realistic worst case - information need!" (colour pink) in this summary or you are asked to work on the criterion in order to enable the evaluation.

1

Aspect: Particular concern

Mentioned on problem substance lists

Aspect: Indication of risks for health and environment

An exposure scenario for this substance is available.

<div>1</div> Workplace	According to current knowledge, the substance is not considered dangerous. During the life cycle, at least one situation occurs in which medium exposure is to be expected. Due to the lack of toxicity, the risk potential is low.
<div>1</div> Consumer	According to current knowledge, the substance is not considered dangerous. No relevant exposure is to be expected during the life cycle. Therefore, the risk potential is very low.
<div>1</div> Environment	According to current knowledge, the substance is not considered dangerous. No relevant exposure is to be expected during the life cycle. Therefore, the risk potential is very low.

3

Aspect: Life cycle impacts

Consideration of climate and ozone depletion, resource consumption and circularity.



In the evaluation summary it is evident that the use of magnesium sulphate heptahydrate instead of boric acid is a significant improvement in sustainability. Although the exposure potential was higher for magnesium sulphate heptahydrate due to the absence of known hazards the risk indication results in a green evaluation. For boric acid the risk indication is rated red due to the properties of very high concern for humans.

3.11 Substitution potential

Boric Acid

Calculation by average method

The evaluation has shown that the substance is not sustainable in key aspects. The following questions are intended to assess whether it is more likely that there are already less problematic alternatives (assessment green), i.e. whether substitution might be relatively easy and quick, or whether the replacement could be more complex, difficult and time-consuming (assessment red).

Potential for substitution

Please state your role

☐ (not edited) ☐ Formulators of mixtures ☒ Users of substances and/or mixtures

For what case would you like to evaluate the substitution potential?

Potential to replace the substance as such

1 - REPLACEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE IN THE END USE

Availability of better alternatives?

Are alternatives available for the chemical

Rather yes, there are various references to better alternatives for the use

Not needed

The substitution potential of magnesium sulphate heptahydrate is not evaluated as no red result is displayed in the summary. It can be used as a replacement for boric acid and therefore, the assessment of the substitution potential of boric acid is green, i.e. alternatives are available.

4 Sustainability comparison

In the sustainability comparison, two alternatives are compared to the boric acid. The second alternative is a mixture consisting of potassium carbonate and quartz, i.e. a mixture of solid, inorganic substances.

ChemSelect allows comparing substances with substances and mixtures with mixtures. A comparison of a substances with a mixture is technically not possible, yet. Therefore, Baltifloc entered boric acid and magnesium sulphate heptahydrate as “100% - mixtures” and could then compare the two alternatives.

Based on the hazardous properties, it is obvious that both alternatives are better than boric acid. The mixture (pureRed) performs slightly worse in human toxicity than magnesium sulphate heptahydrate due to acute effects on eyes and skin, as well as a classification as toxic to organs.



ChemSelect: Assessment of flame retardants in insulation materials

Mixture	Magnesium Sulphate Heptahydrate	Boric Acid	PureRED
Problem substance lists	1 Rank 1	5 Rank 3	5 Rank 2
Phys. chem. properties	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1
Human toxicity	1 Rank 1	5 Rank 2	5 Rank 3
CMR	1 Rank 1	5 Rank 3	5 Rank 2
Endocrine	1 Rank 1	3 Rank 3	1 Rank 2
Skin/Eye	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	3 Rank 2
Other damage	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	3 Rank 2
Environmental toxicity	1 Rank 1	3 Rank 3	1 Rank 2
Aquatic Tox.	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1
PBT/vPvB + Remote	1 Rank 2	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 3
PMT/vPvM	1 Rank 2	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 3
Endocrine	1 Rank 1	3 Rank 3	1 Rank 2
Exposure potential in workplaces	3 Rank 3	1 Rank 1	3 Rank 2
Dermal	3 Rank 3	1 Rank 1	3 Rank 2
Inhalation	3 Rank 3	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 2
Exposure potential consumers	1 Rank 2	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 2
Dermal	1 Rank 2	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 2
Inhalation	1 Rank 2	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 2
Orally	1 Rank 2	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 2
Exposure potential environment	1 Rank 2	1 Rank 2	1 Rank 1
Water	1 Rank 2	1 Rank 2	1 Rank 1
Air	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1
Soil	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1
Climate and ozone	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	3 Rank 2
Global warming potential	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 2
CO2 emissions	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	
Ozone depletion	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 2
Resource consumption	3 Rank 1	3 Rank 2	
Energy	1 Rank 1	3 Rank 2	
Water	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	
Raw materials	4 Rank 1	4 Rank 1	
Circularity	3 Rank 1	3 Rank 1	3 Rank 1
Recovery	5 Rank 2	5 Rank 2	5 Rank 1
Pollution	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 2
Supplier's responsibility	3 Rank 1	3 Rank 2	3 Rank 2
Worker	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1
Environment	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1	1 Rank 1
Social environment	3 Rank 1	4 Rank 2	4 Rank 2

The differences in the exposure potential are due to the different concentrations of the flame retardants in the final insulation material as well as differences in water solubility.

The PureRed mixture lacks information about lifecycle impacts, while this is available for the other two chemicals. No ranks are assigned to criteria which have not been assessed (grey).

As information on "climate and ozone" has been entered (due to all being inorganic solids, both GWP and ODP are green), here the colour is pink. For resource consumption, no information is entered, therefore, the criterion is not included in the assessment.



5 Conclusions

The evaluation clearly shows that both alternatives are better than the use of boric acid. The magnesium sulphate heptahydrate is the best option also with regard to the level of certainty about lifecycle impacts. As a next step, the further information could be sought for the life cycle impacts and/or the exposure situations could be further assessed. However, as both options appear to be possible, it is advisable to test both alternatives in practice, in order to also include performance information in the final decision making.