The working group "BEDARFSGEGENSTÄNDE" is a committee in the LEBENSMITTELCHEMISCHEN GESELLSCHAFT, dealing with issues of the composition and analysis of commodities. Commodities, as defined in the German Law Lebensmittel- und Bedarfsgegenständegesetz (LMBG) are:

- Commodities with food contact
- Commodities with body contact
- Toys and joke articles
- Detergents

The field of commodities includes a very large spectrum of differently composed matrices (e.g. glassware, ceramics, wood, metal, leather, textiles, plastics like PE, PP, PA, PES, PVC and chemicals) - meaning an analytical challenge.

Complex legal regulations: Assessments concerning health and consumer risks have to take European and national law into consideration (e.g. foodstuff, chemical and product safety law).

The working group is a neutral committee, who offers expert advice to manufacturers, commerce and official services. Recently there are 42 members (18 active, 24 corresponding). The members are chemists and food chemists from:

- Manufactures
- Commerce
- University
- Governmental Services
- Independent private laboratories
- Official laboratories

Tasks and Activities

- Expert advice to governmental authorities
- Collaboration with other national and international expert committees (DIN, CEN,...)
- Commentation of national and European legislation

Development of analytical methods for the examination of commodities, including proficiency tests and ringtrials

Discussion of recent issues:
- Analytical
- Informative

Recent analytical issues:
- Azo-dyes and PCP in textiles and leather
- Nickel release from metal articles with skin contact

Recent discussion topics:
- Spread of contact allergies (e.g. nickel, isothiazolinone)
- Esters of phthalic acid in toys
- Legislation for commodities in Austria and Switzerland

Public relations work:
- Informative events
- Publications
- Statements to special issues

Informative events up to now:
- Commodities with body contact (1996 and 2003)
- Commodities with food contact (2000)
- Detergents (1998)
- Toys and joke articles (2005)

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Do you have questions? You are welcome!