

Greening of Consumer Products

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California's chemical legislation could presage federal action

Chemical and Engineering News - Sept 8

On Aug. 31, the California State Legislature passed two bills to promote the use of greener chemicals, a move that will affect chemical makers nationwide and could presage an overhaul of the federal toxic substances law according to Chemical and Engineering News. The legislation initiates creation of a state regulatory system to encourage phaseout of toxic compounds in consumer products and development of more environmentally friendly ones. State lawmakers and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) hammered out the measures with input from the chemical industry and environmental groups. The American Chemistry Council and the Chemical Industry Council of California are asking Schwarzenegger to veto the PFC ban.

California Legislature passes bill to promote E-waste recycling

EIA Track - Sept 8

The California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 1391 ("AB 1391"), which now awaits the governor's signature or veto. If enacted, AB 1391 would require a retailer selling covered electronic devices ("CED") to provide customers with the California Integrated Waste Management Board's ("CIWMB") website when purchasing a CED. The retailer would be required to provide the website on a sign, written material, or the sales receipt, which may include the following language: "For information on where and how to return, recycle, and dispose of a covered electronic device, see www.ecycle.org."

California sues artificial turf makers over lead hazard

Injury Board.com - Sept 8

California Attorney General, Jerry Brown, has taken legal action against three makers of imitation grass, alleging the companies have violated California's Proposition 65 environmental laws by knowingly failing to disclose lead contained in their products. The lawsuit names Beaulieu Group of Georgia, Astro Turf of Georgia and Field Turf USA Inc. of Florida. Lead, commonly used to give a natural green hue to artificial turf, has been linked to brain and kidney damage, especially in children. Lead exposure can also damage the nervous system and reproductive system.

New trend sees fewer PVC office products

SF Gate - Sept 7

TheGreenOffice.com - a San Francisco online office supply store - has become the first retailer in its industry to stop selling products made from polyvinyl chloride, including those familiar vinyl binders. And environmentalists hope that the move will spur a similar shift away from PVC among other office products stores. "There are issues with PVC all along the product life cycle - in its manufacturing, use and disposal," said

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Alex Szabo, CEO and founder of TheGreenOffice, which started selling office products in January and expects revenues of over \$1 million this year. "We hope over time to see PVC in the office products industry fading out."

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