

Greening of Consumer Products

an Allen Matkins
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Late regulatory changes by Bush administration could affect chemical industry

Bloomberg News - Jan 8

The Bush administration is working to enact some pro-business federal rules that are supported by some in the chemical industry. One proposed change would alter the way workplace exposure to poisonous substances is measured. Aides to President-elect Barack Obama say he "will review all 11th-hour regulations" and may block some that have not been published.

CPSC says some exceptions likely for chemical-testing mandate for kids' items

LA Times - Jan 7

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has agreed preliminarily to create some exemptions to the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. The act requires all products designed for children under 12 be tested for lead and phthalates beginning Feb. 10. The move toward exemptions comes after thrift stores and sellers of handmade toys complained that the testing requirement could force them out of business.

New law on lead causes worry for small businesses

Sun Journal - Jan 9

Small businesses in places like Maine say a new law requiring that all children's clothing, toys and books be tested for lead and other toxins could put them out of business. The owner of one baby boutique selling handmade products for mothers and babies will close its doors at the end of January, before the Feb. 10 law goes into effect. Although the Consumer Product Safety Commission said this week that it is likely to grant waivers to thrift stores and clothing resellers, the rule will still apply to new products and handcrafted items.

Report looks at the good and bad of nanotechnology

Metro News Vancouver - Jan 12

The Canadian Press released a report on the good and the bad of Nanotechnology. The good includes that nanoparticles are likely to be used in cleaning up contaminated sites because of their ability to break apart toxic molecules. They are also likely to reduce global energy demand because of the efficiency they bring to electronics. The bad suggests that little is known about how nanoparticles interact with living systems, including what makes them toxic, whether they can move up food chains or even how they can be detected.

Nanocomposite plastic reportedly biodegradable, less expensive

Thanh Nien News - Jan 8

Vietnamese researchers say they have come up with a plastic material for bags that is biodegradable and less expensive than traditional plastic bags.

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Editor

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The material, called nanocomposite, is a mix of thermoplastic starch, polyvinyl alcohol and some food additives, and is said to fully degrade in land within a short time.

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