

Greening of Consumer Products

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Federal ban on phthalates won't apply to goods already in warehouses or on store shelves

Washington Post - Nov 19

Federal safety regulators announced that products that are already on shelves and in warehouses will not be affected by a new federal ban on some types of phthalates. Products containing the chemical include teething rings, pacifiers and other children's products. Manufacturers will not be allowed to sell products made after the ban goes into effect Feb. 10.

Software tracks new REACH list of substances

Environmental Protection Agency online - Nov 21

Synopsis Technology, Inc. of Spring House, Pa., announced Nov. 12 that EMARS™, its environmental compliance software solution, now enables manufacturers to track Europe's recently published "Candidate List" of 15 substances of very high concern (SVHC). Under Europe's new chemical law, REACH, manufacturers are now required to provide information on the presence of these SVHC in their products to customers and to consumers within 45 days of any inquiry. The agency indicated that work is already under way to add more substances to the list, which is expected to grow to more than 1,000 substances.

Green chemical companies work toward sustainable solutions

Business Mirror - Nov 17

Green chemical companies are working to find a happy medium between the profit goals of business and ecological responsibility. In the Philippines, for instance, Chemrez Technologies developed a biodiesel called coconut methyl ester from the coconut industry. Another company, First In Colors, then looked at the growing problem of plastic clutter and developed Biomate. It is an additive in the formulation of conventional plastics, like polyethylene and polypropylene, to make such plastics biodegradable—it accelerates the breakdown of the chemical structure of the plastics.

FDA opens its first overseas office in China

USA Today - Nov 21

The FDA opened its first overseas office in China, just one week after the agency ordered all Chinese food products to be held at the U.S. border until testing shows they are free of the chemical melamine, which was added to baby formula and sickened thousands of Chinese infants. With 15% of food in the U.S. imported, the overseas offices will help build collaborations with countries providing food for the U.S., said David Acheson, the FDA's associate commissioner for foods.

Tests find chemical after normal heating of 'microwave safe' plastics

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - Nov 15

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Editor

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The "Milwaukee Journal Sentinel" recently had 10 items billed as "microwave safe" tested in a lab and found when the items were heated in a microwave or conventional oven, bisphenol A (BPA) was found to be leaching from all of them at levels that scientists have allegedly found cause neurological and developmental damage in laboratory animals. The newspaper tests also revealed that BPA, commonly thought to be found only in hard, clear plastic and in the lining of metal food cans, is actually also present in frozen food trays, microwaveable soup containers and plastic baby food packaging.

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