

Greening of Consumer Products

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EPA reinstates stricter toxic substances reporting requirements

Environmental Leader - April 23

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reinstated stricter reporting requirements, under the direction of President Obama, for industrial and federal facilities that release toxic substances that threaten human health and the environment. Reversing the Bush administration's less stringent regulations, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson signed a final rule that restores the [Toxics Release Inventory](#) (TRI) reporting requirements that were replaced by the TRI Burden Reduction Rule in December 2006. Under the Bush policies, companies were allowed to file less detailed information to government regulators.

Michigan bills would require disclosure of hazardous chemicals in toys

Chicago Tribune - April 20

Legislation introduced in the Michigan House calls for toy makers to publicly report when and why chemicals that may be hazardous are used in their products. Failure to comply would result in fines beginning at \$5,000, with fines increasing for each violation thereafter.

Legislation in New York would require regulation of baby products

Rochester Homepage - April 27

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., has announced legislation that would require the FDA to regulate products for babies in response to a study showing carcinogens and harmful chemicals in baby shampoos, lotions and other products. The Safe Baby Products Act would mandate FDA regulation for personal-care products used by children.

Chemists develop recyclable thermoset resin

New York Times - April 27

Chemists at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands have developed a thermoset resin that doesn't

decompose when heated. Most products made of thermoset resin are sent to landfills, but the development of this self-healing resin may allow more of the polymers to be reused or recycled.

Major food companies slow to phase out BPA packaging: survey

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - April 21

A survey reports that only some major food companies are using packaging alternatives that don't contain bisphenol A, which is suspected of causing health problems including cancer and heart disease. While all major baby-bottle makers in the U.S. have vowed to cut out BPA, food companies have been slower to take action. Heinz, Hain Celestial and Nestle say they plan to gradually stop using the chemical; Del Monte, Hershey and J.M. Smucker have not acted.

Have a suggestion?

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Eileen M. Nottoli
Editor

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