

# Greening of Consumer Products

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publication

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## **Study links high levels of phthalates with changes in male anatomy**

*USA Today - Oct 2*

A study in Environmental Research suggests a higher likelihood of changes to the genitals of boys if their mothers were exposed during pregnancy to high levels of phthalates, according to USA Today. The author of the study noted that the research was limited and that the boys studied had normal sex organs. In the study, doctors measured phthalate levels in the mothers' urine during pregnancy, then examined the babies at 12 months.

## **U.S. chemical industry moving towards bio-based products**

*Red Orbit - Oct 6*

The U.S. chemical industry could be in the midst of a transition from petro-based processes and products to those that are bio-based, according to an article by RedOrbit. It is happening in fits and starts, but the momentum is building. In the spring of 1997, DuPont CEO John Krol, in an address at The Chemists' Club of New York, indicated that commercial production of trimethylene glycol (3G) from glucose via bacterial fermentation was approaching commercialization. Polyester fibers derived from 3G have superior properties to conventional polyesters derived from ethylene glycol. A joint venture plant with Tate & Lyle (a U.K. sugar producer) is now in operation in Tennessee.

## **EPA plan to update chemical inventory could lead to more paperwork**

*Scientific American - Oct 6*

A plan by the EPA to update its Chemical Substances Inventory to reflect the fact that only about 7,000 of the 83,000 chemicals on the list are currently in use could create extensive paperwork for companies because firms that temporarily stop production of a chemical would have to notify the EPA every time they restart, according to Chemistry World. "Under a worst-case scenario, everything would drop off the inventory and you'd have to re-notify everything," said Mike Walls, the American Chemistry Council's director of regulatory and technical affairs.

## **The European Union's dangerous-chemical list likely to include many made in U.S.**

*Scientific American - Sept 30*

The European Union is set to identify hundreds of chemicals as "substances of very high concern" that will eventually be regulated in Europe. Sixteen chemicals, including some phthalates, are already on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals list, and many of the others expected to land on the list are produced in the U.S. The Scientific American suggests that companies that make the chemicals will likely need to find safer alternatives.

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**[Eileen M. Nottoli](#)**  
Editor

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Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, founded in 1977, is a California law firm with over 230 attorneys practicing out of seven offices in California. The firm's broad based areas of focus include construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy and creditors' rights, and employment and labor law. [More...](#)

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## **The Vinyl Institute calls proposed LEED for Healthcare Rating System a "direct aim at PVC"**

*The Vinyl Institute - Oct 6*

The Vinyl Institute is calling into question the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) proposed LEED for Healthcare Rating System (LEED-HC), which it says "takes direct aim at PVC" and reportedly ignores the findings of a report by its own Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC). Despite disagreement within USGBC's Material and Resource Technical Advisory Group, the LEED Steering Committee opted to approve negative credits, calling for the elimination of halogenated materials, including chlorine and other substances, in all healthcare applications, while at the same time recommending the use of alternative materials. The Vinyl Institute listed its responses to a series of questions posed by the LEED Steering Committee in soliciting public comments for LEED-HC.

## **Schwarzenegger vetoes a bill that would ban PFOA's from food packaging**

*Ascribe - Sept 30*

Just a few days after signing regulatory bills for chemicals in California, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed a bill that would have banned the DuPont chemical perfluorooctanoic acid from food packaging. Schwarzenegger said PFOA should be reviewed under the system set up by the earlier bills; the system takes a science-based approach and could lead to the banning of chemicals that are determined to have health effects.

## **Study shows Californians have higher levels of PBDEs in blood**

*Capitol Weekly - Oct 2*

People in California have twice the level of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE's) in their bloodstreams as those in other states, according to a study published in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Science & Technology. It was conducted by the Massachusetts-based Silent Spring Institute in collaboration with the University of California Berkeley, Brown University, and the group Communities for a Better Environment. Because of the state's strict fire-safety standards, PBDEs are often used as fire retardants in furniture, and the study showed levels in California homes were four to 10 times higher than in homes in other states, and as much as 200 times higher than those recorded in European homes.