

April 1, 2009

Oregon considers dozens of bills targeting toxic chemicals

The Oregonian - March 29

Oregon's legislative agenda features a dozen measures designed to reduce chemical hazards in everyday life, such as fire retardants in upholstery and phosphates in dish soap. Studies have raised concerns about potential hazards from toxins in consumer products, and environmentalists say a cautious approach at the state level makes sense, as the federal government has been slow to act.

Third party testing of children's jewelry in effect

PPB Newslink - March 24

The 3rd-party testing requirement for children's metal jewelry, set forth in the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), went into effect last week. Children in this case are those 12 years or younger. February 10 of this year, lead content is limited to 600 parts per million (ppm) for any part of the product. Beginning August 14, the lead limit will be reduced to 300 ppm. Information on lead limits and third-party testing can be [found here](#).

EPA is changing how it tests chemical toxicity

Environmental Leader - March 26

The EPA has new scientific methods to assess the toxicity of chemicals, and it's a move that could affect how companies approach new product development and risk management. The advanced methods also could reduce companies' testing costs. Using recent advances, the new toxicity testing methods will allow the EPA to screen thousands of environmental chemicals quickly for potentially harmful effects.

Related EPA report: ["U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Strategic Plan for Evaluating the Toxicity of Chemicals"](#)

PepsiCo to reduce plastic in Aquafina bottles

Water TechOnline - March 25

PepsiCo's Aquafina brand bottles will get about 20% lighter as the company reduces the amount of plastic in its 16.9-ounce bottles, according to this article that cites Associated Press and Wall Street Journal reports. The reduction is expected to save Pepsi about 75 million pounds of plastic annually.

EPA to reduce reliance on animals for chemical testing

GreenBiz.com - March 25

As the EPA works to improve efficiency in determining chemical safety, the agency is reducing its reliance on animal testing to assess human risks, shifting its focus to molecular biology, genomics and computational-modeling methods. Officials say that in addition to improving the ability to study how toxicity affects children, the approach will allow companies to pay less for some tests.

Chinese lawsuit says toxins are in U.S. soap & shampoo

Consumer Affairs - March 31

A group of Chinese families is preparing to file suit against American manufacturer Johnson & Johnson, claiming they imported contaminated products into China, causing their children to suffer allergic symptoms. This follows a report the group, Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, which reported toxins in American-made bath products. The group says it found formaldehyde and 1,4-dioxane in Johnson & Johnson's baby shampoo.

Have a suggestion?

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[Eileen M. Nottoli](#)

Editor

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