

March 26, 2009

Lawmakers, manufacturers work to remove chemicals from market

Chemical & Engineering News - March 23

Legislators and manufacturers of household goods are taking action to pull what they call potentially dangerous chemicals off the market. In **California**, lawmakers have introduced legislation to ban bisphenol A from food and beverage containers after some baby bottle manufacturers announced they would eliminate BPA from their products, despite arguments from some chemical groups that BPA is safe. Meanwhile, consumer-products maker S.C. Johnson is unveiling an ingredient-disclosure program for its home-cleaning and air-care products.

Chemical company execs warn against safety mandate

ICIS News - March 23

Executives from chemical companies including Dow Chemical and BASF are warning that a U.S. mandate for inherently safer technology, which would give greater authority to the government, could have negative consequences. Executives said the mandate could force companies to change production processes and levels of feedstock supplies as well as abandon some products.

S.C. Johnson to list ingredients for cleaning products

Green Business - March 16

Cleaning product maker S.C. Johnson says it will disclose ingredients in all of its home-cleaning and air-care products, including fragrances. The company has asked all of its fragrance suppliers to stop using phthalates, a decision that is expected to raise the pressure on other companies to follow suit. Phthalates have been approved by the FDA and European regulators, as well as the chemical industry, which says they are safe.

China says Johnson & Johnson products are safe

Wall Street Journal - March 23

China's Food and Drug Safety Administration says it has concluded dozens of Johnson & Johnson baby products are safe, following allegations from a U.S. activist group that the products contained trace levels of formaldehyde and 1,4 dioxane, which can cause cancer. The Chinese agency said it concluded that the chemicals were not used in the products, and J&J maintained that the company's products were in compliance with safety laws in all countries in which they are sold.

Parents sue baby products manufacturers: Study says probable cancer-causing chemicals in products

Fox Business - March 24

Some of the nation's largest child-product companies, including Johnson & Johnson, Procter & Gamble and Kimberly Clark, are the target of a nationwide class-action lawsuit by parents after a study said many of the companies' products including baby shampoo and lotions contain probable cancer-causing chemicals including formaldehyde and 1,4-dioxane.

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