Endocrine Disruptors and Their Regulatory Treatment

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Presenter biography

Bob DeMott is board-certified in toxicology and specializes in risk assessment and stewardship for products. He has more than 25 years of experience evaluating human health and environmental risks associated with the production, distribution, use and disposal of ingredients and products.

Dr. DeMott has completed and directed risk analyses of chemical components of pesticide formulations, toys, electronic devices, building materials, and sterilant gases. He has directed alternatives assessments supporting ingredient substitution and product sustainability goals. He has directed laboratory testing of endocrine disruptor activity in wastewater and surface water and has developed testing programs to monitor transfer of potential endocrine disruptors during the handling and use of medical devices and toys.

Presentation abstract

Endocrine disruption is a type of hazard that creates specialized challenges for hazard communication professionals. While the public has an ingrained and intuitive concern about exposure to chemicals that could interfere with hormonal signaling and control, the corresponding technical and regulatory complexities make clear explanations and simple classification difficult. This presentation will lay out the current status for classifying endocrine disruption hazards in the EU and US regulatory systems. We will explore the tension between scientific and regulatory programs working with the emerging science of endocrine disruption with testing approaches still being validated and the public expectation of clear directives and classifications now. Finally, we will discuss the types of endocrine disruption and hormonal targets that are emerging as the highest priorities for consideration with regard to chemical releases and products in commerce.