



SGHC Monthly Newsletter

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EPA

EPA Eliminating Backlog of New Chemicals Awaiting Approval.....1

WEBINARS/MEETINGS

Update on the 2016-17 Work Plan for Workplace Chemicals Webinar.....1-2

OECD/ECHA Webinar - "QSAR Toolbox v.4.0 Features".....2

MISC.

Maine Adds 2 Additional Chemicals to the Priority Chemical Reporting List.....2

A 45 Day Public Consultation has been Launched on the Harmonised Classification and Labelling Proposals for Glyphosate.....3

Canada Proposes to Add Specified Cobalt/ Cobalt-Containing Substances to CEPA Schedule.....3

EPA

EPA Eliminating Backlog of New Chemicals Awaiting Approval

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has split by half the backlog of new chemical submissions being reviewed under the Toxic Substances Control Act, bringing the number of cases down from roughly 300 to 150 with plans to fully eliminate the backlog by the end of July. The agency will provide weekly web updates on the status of the backlog and the chemicals' review status to increase transparency for the public and the regulated community. "We are committed to working with companies to gather all the relevant information early in the process, to inform safety reviews for new chemicals. Reviewing new chemicals quickly will enable those deemed safe to enter the marketplace to support jobs and our economy," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. The reduction in the backlog is the result of prioritizing and implementing process efficiencies. For instance, grouping the review of similar chemicals speeds the review. EPA will continue to work with all stakeholders to identify additional changes to improve the quality, efficiency and transparency of the new chemical review program. On June 22, 2016, the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act amended how requests for new chemicals (called pre-manufacture notices or PMNs) would be reviewed by EPA, requiring that EPA make an "affirmative finding" on whether a new chemical presents an unreasonable risk and addressing that unreasonable risk before allowing it to be commercialized. EPA reviews about 1,000 new chemicals per year, and must complete the review of each submission within a specified timeframe, resulting in about 300 chemicals under review at any given time. By January 2017, the number under review had grown to about 600. EPA is working hard to get the number of submissions under review back to the baseline. For more information, [Click Here](#).

View progress on new chemical reviews [Here](#).

WEBINARS/MEETINGS

Update on the 2016-17 Work Plan for Workplace Chemicals Webinar

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming RCC webinar. Information on the webinar and how to attend is presented below. Visit the OSHA Hazard Communication website [Here](#). Please find information on the RCC by clicking on the International tab.

As you may be aware, under the Canada-United States (U.S.) Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) Joint Action Plan and Health Canada have been collaborating to align hazard communication regulations for workplace chemicals in Canada and the U.S. In 2016, Health Canada and U.S. OSHA published an updated work plan to address workplace chemicals. You can view it [Here](#).

One of the items on the work plan is the hosting of a joint Canada/U.S. stakeholder meeting to discuss future updates to regulations. Therefore, Health Canada and U.S. OSHA government representatives will be hosting a webinar for interested stakeholders on June 28th, 2017 from 1:30-2:30 P.M. (EST). The webinar will be in English.





WEBINARS/MEETINGS (Cont.)

The purpose of this webinar is to provide an update on the current RCC Work Plan deliverables and anticipated future guidance work. We also plan to provide an update on issues related to regulatory activities to align with the most recent version of the GHS Purple Book and to improve and maintain alignment between Canada and the United States.

If you wish to participate in the webinar, please use the following information and instructions:

Conference number: PW4215051

Participant passcode: 3535510

To Join the Webinar Online:

1. Access the URL [Here](#).
2. Enter your name and email address.
3. Enter the conference number: PW4215051
4. Enter the participant password: 3535510
5. Click "Proceed".

Participants can join the event directly [Here](#).

To Join by Telephone:

Call-in toll-free number: **1-800-857-9638** (U.S. & Canada)

Call-in number: **1-630-395-0498** (U.S. & Canada)

Attendee access code: 3535510

Conference number, if needed: PW4215051

OTE: Restrictions may exist when accessing freephone/toll free numbers using a mobile telephone. We have set a 300-participant limit to the number of participants who will be able to join the webinar; therefore, we encourage you to join a few minutes early so that the webinar can start promptly at 1:30 p.m. EST.

Please forward this invitation to others who may be interested in participating in this webinar. During the webinar, you will be able to send questions using the whiteboard (chat area). Once the presentation is complete, Health Canada and U.S. OSHA will answer the questions presented, and time permitting, will open the lines to entertain others.

OECD/ECHA Webinar - "QSAR Toolbox v.4.0 Features."

A public webinar by OECD/ECHA for demonstrating the new features of Version 4.0 of the QSAR Toolbox was held on 1 June, 2017 - a recording is now available [Here](#). The purpose is to demonstrate the new features of [Version 4.0 of the QSAR Toolbox](#).

OECD: Brief overview of the purpose & history of the QSAR Toolbox. Basic concepts and organisation of the Toolbox including workflow, profilers, databases. Where to get support for Version 4.0 (tutorials, discussion forum).





WEBINARS/MEETINGS (Cont.)

ECHA: Practical examples for the use of the QSAR Toolbox v4.0, with focus on the new functionalities. Relevance of profilers and databases for a given endpoint. Automated and standardised workflows. Quantitative metabolic information. Improved reporting: new prediction report and exportable data matrix in excel format.

The basic functionalities of the new version of the QSAR Toolbox were presented at the IT tools training during ECHA's stakeholders' day 2017. As a preparation for this webinar, we advise to watch in advance the recording of this presentation, which can be found [Here](#)

MISC. (Cont.)

Maine Adds 2 Additional Chemicals to the Priority Chemical Reporting List

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has added two Flame Retardants to the Priority Chemical Reporting List; decabromodiphenyl ether (deca BDE) and hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD). Read [Here](#).

A 45 Day Public Consultation has been Launched on the Harmonised Classification and Labelling Proposals for Glyphosate

The substance is a widely used herbicide. The deadline for comments is 18 July 2016. Submit comments [Here](#).

Canada Proposes to Add Specified Cobalt/Cobalt-Containing Substances to CEPA Schedule 1

Read more [Here](#).

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