Message

From: Tanner, Barbara [Tanner.Barbara@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/12/2019 4:31:43 PM
To: Faeth, Lisa [Faeth.Lisa@epa.gov]; Anderson, Steve [Anderson.Steve@epa.gov]; Askinazi, Valerie [Askinazi.Valerie@epa.gov]; Baptist, Erik [Baptist.Erik@epa.gov]; Barkas, Jessica [barkas.jessica@epa.gov]; Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Blair, Susanna [Blair.Susanna@epa.gov]; Buster, Pamela [Buster.Pamela@epa.gov]; Canavan, Sheila [Canavan.Sheila@epa.gov]; Caraballo, Mario [Caraballo.Mario@epa.gov]; Carroll, Megan [Carroll.Megan@epa.gov]; Cherepy, Andrea [Cherepy.Andrea@epa.gov]; Christian, Myrta [Christian.Myrta@epa.gov]; Corado, Ana [Corado.Ana@epa.gov]; Davies, Clive [Davies.Clive@epa.gov]; Dekleva, Lynn [dekleva.lynn@epa.gov]; Devito, Steve [Devito.Steve@epa.gov]; Doa, Maria [Doa.Maria@epa.gov]; Drewes, Scott [Drewes.Scott@epa.gov]; Dunn, Alexandra [dunn.alexandra@epa.gov]; Dunton, Cheryl [Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Edelstein, Rebecca [Edelstein.Rebecca@epa.gov]; Edmonds, Marc [Edmonds.Marc@epa.gov]; Elwood, Holly [Elwood.Holly@epa.gov]; Farquharson, Chenise [Farquharson.Chenise@epa.gov]; Fehrenbacher, Cathy [Fehrenbacher.Cathy@epa.gov]; Feustel, Ingrid [feustel.ingrid@epa.gov]; Frank, Donald [Frank.Donald@epa.gov]; Gibson, Hugh [Gibson.Hugh@epa.gov]; Gimlin, Peter [Gimlin.Peter@epa.gov]; Gorder, Chris [Gorder.Chris@epa.gov]; Gordon, Brittney [Gordon.Brittney@epa.gov]; Grant, Brian [Grant.Brian@epa.gov]; Gray, Shawna [Gray.Shawna@epa.gov]; Groeneveld, Thomas [Groeneveld.Thomas@epa.gov]; Guthrie, Christina [Guthrie.Christina@epa.gov]; Hanley, Mary [Hanley.Mary@epa.gov]; Helfgott, Daniel [Helfgott.Daniel@epa.gov]; Henry, Tala [Henry.Tala@epa.gov]; Kapust, Edna [Kapust.Edna@epa.gov]; Kemme, Sara [kemme.sara@epa.gov]; Koch, Erin [Koch.Erin@epa.gov]; Krasnic, Toni [krasnic.toni@epa.gov]; Lavoie, Emma [Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov]; Lee, Mari [Lee.Mari@epa.gov]; Lee, Virginia [Lee.Virginia@epa.gov]; Leopard, Matthew (OEI) [Leopard.Matthew@epa.gov]; Liva, Aakruti [Liva.Aakruti@epa.gov]; Lobar, Bryan [Lobar.Bryan@epa.gov]; Mclean, Kevin [Mclean.Kevin@epa.gov]; Menasche, Claudia [Menasche.Claudia@epa.gov]; Morris, Jeff [Morris.Jeff@epa.gov]; Moss, Kenneth [Moss.Kenneth@epa.gov]; Mottley, Tanya [Mottley.Tanya@epa.gov]; Moyer, Adam [moyer.adam@epa.gov]; Myers, Irina [Myers.Irina@epa.gov]; Myrick, Pamela [Myrick.Pamela@epa.gov]; Nazef, Laura [Nazef.Laura@epa.gov]; Ortiz, Julia [Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov]; Owen, Elise [Owen.Elise@epa.gov]; Parsons, Doug [Parsons.Douglas@epa.gov]; Passe, Loraine [Passe.Loraine@epa.gov]; Pierce, Alison [Pierce.Alison@epa.gov]; Pratt, Johnk [Pratt.Johnk@epa.gov]; Price, Michelle [Price.Michelle@epa.gov]; Reese, Recie [Reese.Recie@epa.gov]; Reisman, Larry [Reisman.Larry@epa.gov]; Rice, Cody [Rice.Cody@epa.gov]; Richardson, Vickie [Richardson.Vickie@epa.gov]; Ross, Philip [Ross.Philip@epa.gov]; Sadowsky, Don [Sadowsky.Don@epa.gov]; Santacroce, Jeffrey [Santacroce.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; Saxton, Dion [Saxton.Dion@epa.gov]; Scarano, Louis [Scarano.Louis@epa.gov]; Scheifele, Hans [Scheifele.Hans@epa.gov]; Schmit, Ryan [schmit.ryan@epa.gov]; Schweer, Greg [Schweer.Greg@epa.gov]; Scott Selken[Personal Email / Ex. 6]; Scott, Elizabeth [Scott.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Selby-Mohamadu, Yvette [Selby-Mohamadu.Yvette@epa.gov]; Seltzer, Mark [Seltzer.Mark@epa.gov]; Sheehan, Eileen [Sheehan.Eileen@epa.gov]; Sherlock, Scott [Sherlock.Scott@epa.gov]; Simons, Andrew [Simons.Andrew@epa.gov]; Sirmons, Chandler [Sirmons.Chandler@epa.gov]; Slotnick, Sue [Slotnick.Sue@epa.gov]; Smith, David G. [Smith.DavidG@epa.gov]; Smith-Seam, Rhoda [smith-seam.rhoda@epa.gov]; Stedeford, Todd [Stedeford.Todd@epa.gov]; Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]; Symmes, Brian [Symmes.Brian@epa.gov]; Tanner, Barbara [Tanner.Barbara@epa.gov]; Thompson, Tony [Thompson.Tony@epa.gov]; Tierney, Meghan [Tierney.Meghan@epa.gov]; Tillman, Thomas [Tillman.Thomas@epa.gov]; Tomassoni, Guy [Tomassoni.Guy@epa.gov]; Tran, Chi [Tran.Chi@epa.gov]; Turk, David [Turk.David@epa.gov]; Vendinello, Lynn [Vendinello.Lynn@epa.gov]; Wallace, Ryan [Wallace.Ryan@epa.gov]; Wheeler, Cindy [Wheeler.Cindy@epa.gov]; Widawsky, David [Widawsky.David@epa.gov]; Williams, Aresia [Williams.Aresia@epa.gov]; Williams, Bridget [Williams.Bridget@epa.gov]; Williamson, Tracy [Williamson.Tracy@epa.gov]; Wills, Jennifer [Wills.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Wise, Louise [Wise.Louise@epa.gov]; Wolf, Joel [Wolf.Joel@epa.gov]; Wright, Tracy [Wright.Tracy@epa.gov]; Yowell, John [yowell.john@epa.gov]
Subject: News Articles (For EPA Distribution Only)

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT ARTICLES

Denmark Mulls Ban on Fluorochemicals in Paper Food Wrappers

By Marcus Hoy
Posted Feb. 11, 2019, 3:26 PM

Denmark is considering a ban on per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in all cardboard and paper materials that come into contact with food, the nation's environmental agency said Feb. 6.

INSIDEEPA.COM ARTICLES

States Ramp Up Chemicals Management Legislation Despite TSCA Reform
February 11, 2019
At least 22 states are ramping up efforts to approve chemicals management legislation despite the sweeping overhaul of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) that some proponents hoped would end a patchwork of state chemicals rules, with observers saying states are "filling in" regulatory gaps EPA cannot address under the toxics law.

CEI steps up push to scale back IRIS
February 12, 2019 - The Daily Feed
"[I]t is time to shut down IRIS, or at the very least give it a massive overhaul," the free-market group says in a new report.

GREENWIRE ARTICLES

Deal struck on border, new funding for EPA, Interior

George Cahlink and Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporters

Reporters questioning House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) on spending talks yesterday. Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call/Newscom

Published: Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Congressional negotiators reached a deal on border security and agency funding last night that — if President Trump signs — would avert a government shutdown at the end of the week.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) announced that an "agreement in principle" last night had been reached by top appropriators after a series of closed-door meetings.

Details of the measure will be announced when the legislation is drafted and released as soon as today; it would need to clear both chambers and be signed by the president by Friday to avoid a shutdown.

Congressional aides said the accord would provide $1.375 billion in spending for 55 miles of border fencing, a level well short of the $5.7 billion Trump had sought for 200 miles of fencing.

But in exchange for fewer dollars, Democrats dropped their bid for sharply lower limits on beds for detaining immigrants in the country illegally.

Additionally, the deal will include all seven unfinished fiscal 2019 spending bills, which were held up due to the border security impasse that sparked a 35-day partial government shutdown.

Among the unfinished bills are the Interior-EPA, Commerce-Justice-Science, State-Foreign Operations and Agriculture funding measures.

Lawmakers last month approved a stopgap spending bill, known as a continuing resolution, that reopened all of government and level-funded those agencies through this Friday.

The agreement comes after a weekend of on-and-off negotiations that had the White House warning about another shutdown.

Momentum seemed to shift yesterday afternoon when senior appropriators held a series of closed-door talks that stretched into the evening. Both sides emerged saying concessions were made.

Save for the Homeland Security spending bill, the six other appropriations bills have been finished since last year and have been waiting to ride on the border measure.

The Interior-EPA bill is expected to provide a modest increase in spending and avoid controversial policy riders, under a deal negotiated in the previous Congress.

Versions released earlier this year had more than $13 billion for Interior and almost $9 billion for EPA.

It was not immediately clear whether the final package would contain Democratic-proposed provisions barring any barriers on five wildlife preserves (including the National Butterfly Center), historical areas and a commercial space launch site along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Meanwhile, Trump, appearing at a rally in El Paso, Texas, last night, seemed to disregard the emerging legislation and did not say whether he would sign it.

"We're building the wall anyway," Trump said. He acknowledged that aides had informed him of the looming congressional deal shortly before he took the stage late last night. He added that he told his staff: "I don't even want to hear about it."

The president did not mention a potential emergency order to build a border wall but said: "We're setting the stage. ... We're doing whatever we have to do. The wall is being built; it will continue."

During his remarks, Trump also touted the 35-day partial shutdown of the federal government as a positive event.

"If we didn't do that shutdown, we would not have been able to show this country, these politicians, the world what is happening with the border," Trump said. "That is a very important thing we did."

Trump was interrupted by protesters several times during his remarks — whose objections could not be heard on video — and he appeared to struggle with not addressing the individuals.

"Where do these people come from?" Trump asked during one of the interruptions, before gesturing with both hands to suggest the protester was mentally unhinged. "They go back home to Mommy. They get punished when they get home."

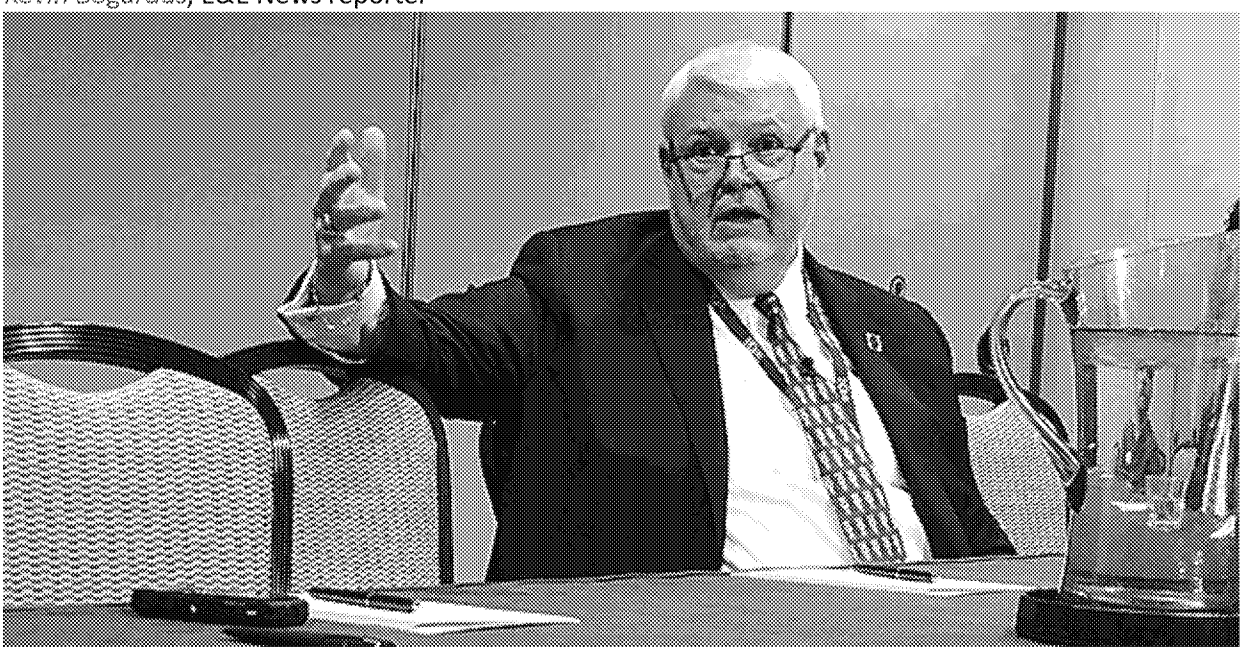
Even though the president has yet to say whether he will back the agreement, his supporters are blasting it. Fox News hose Sean Hannity said Republicans should reject it. Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) was also critical.

"This conference agreement is hardly a serious attempt to secure our border or stop the flow of illegal immigration. It kicks the can down the road yet again, failing to address the critical priorities outlined by Border Patrol Chiefs," said Meadows on Twitter. "Congress is not doing its job."

https://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2019/02/12/stories/1060120305

Union chief on another shutdown: 'We will be ready to roll'

Kevin Bogardus, E&E News reporter



American Federation of Government Employees President J. David Cox spoke to reporters at the union's annual legislative conference. Kevin Bogardus/E&E News

Published: Monday, February 11, 2019

The head of the nation's largest federal workers union is already preparing for another government shutdown.

J. David Cox, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, told reporters today that unless a deal emerges soon to secure government funding past its expiration at the end of this week, his union will hold a protest in the Hart Senate Office Building on Wednesday.

If a funding lapse does occur, Cox said AFGE members will protest Feb. 20 at the offices of senators who have voted against reopening the government in the past.

"We will be ready to roll all over this country," Cox said. "Next Wednesday, I can promise you there will be people there and the Capitol Hill police will be very, very busy."

Cox, other union officials, and Democratic and Republican lawmakers spoke at AFGE's annual legislative conference. The union, which represents 700,000 federal and Washington, D.C., government employees, will lobby Congress this week to end the threat of another shutdown and also to push through a pay raise for government workers and protect union rights in the workplace, like "official time," the use of paid work hours for union activities.

Shutdown politics loom large over the conference.

The partial government shutdown, which lasted five weeks through the end of December and all of January, furloughed 380,000 federal employees and required another 420,000 to work without pay. Now funding is set to run out again Friday as congressional negotiators try to meet President Trump's border security demands.

In a rousing speech to his members from the podium, Cox declared victory over Trump and others who had pushed for a shutdown to secure federal money for a border wall.

"They were whacked upside by the head by the two-by-four of truth while reality bit them in the ass. That's what we did to them," Cox said to cheers, adding federal employees had won newfound respect after the shutdown.

If another shutdown does occur, other unions are also expected to take action.

Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, spoke this morning at AFGE's legislative conference and said labor would support federal employees during another funding lapse. She noted airlines are dependent on Transportation Security Administration workers to provide security at airports and for their passengers.

"We got your back," Nelson said to AFGE members, saying unions should take "an unprecedented response" with "a general strike by the labor movement in the private sector."

"I don't want any of you to do that," she added to laughs. Striking by federal employees would be an illegal action (***Greenwire***, Jan. 21).

Cox told reporters that other airline employee unions will be worried about their members' safety during another shutdown. He expected another funding lapse would galvanize the labor movement if Congress doesn't approve new funds to keep the government open.

"This is going to be a labor moment. Not an AFGE moment but a labor moment," Cox said. "I think that's been made very, very clear."

Murkowski signs on to pay raise

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) spoke to AFGE members at their annual legislative conference this morning. @AFGENational/Twitter

AFGE members also heard from Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska). She lamented the last shutdown and said federal employees should be paid on time.

"This shutdown was wrong before it started. It should have never happened in the first place, and it should have never been allowed to continue for 35 unprecedented days," she said.

Murkowski also said she had decided to co-sponsor legislation that would give federal employees a 2.6 percent pay raise this calendar year. The House has already passed a bill to give that pay raise to government workers.

"I don't want it for 35 days, and I don't want it for one day," Murkowski said about the shutdown, noting the next funding deadline this Friday. "So my job now as I leave you is to go back over to the Hill and start rattling cages."

Another Republican, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, also spoke to AFGE members this morning. He said he had pushed his colleagues to end this past shutdown.

"If your water was being polluted by perfluorinated compounds, PFAS, PFOA, would you vote to shut the EPA down? I don't think you would," Fitzpatrick said.

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), who is considering a run for president in 2020, also spoke at the conference. He took aim at Trump, saying he was a proponent of "phony populism" that divided Americans.

"This president thinks the public doesn't care about federal workers. Well, this shutdown proved that isn't true," Brown said.

Whether another shutdown does occur remains to be seen. Cox said there was a half-chance that agencies could close again when asked by reporters.

"I think it's a 50-50 coin toss right now because I don't think this president understands and I don't think he cares and I don't think Mr. McConnell cares," said Cox, referring to the Republican Senate majority leader from Kentucky.

https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2019/02/11/stories/1060120265

Staffer's resignation letter raises Hatch Act questions

Sean Reilly, E&E News reporter

EPA headquarters in Washington. EPA/Flickr

Published: Monday, February 11, 2019

EPA's press shop employees violated the Hatch Act in giving the media copies of a top official's politically charged resignation letter to President Trump, an advocacy group alleged in a **complaint** filed today with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel.

In the complaint, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility said that Mandy Gunasekara's resignation **letter** on EPA stationery last Thursday advocated for Trump's re-election while she was still a federal employee. Although Gunasekara left her post in EPA's air office that same day, PEER charged that employees in the agency's Office of Public Affairs who gave the letter to reporters also violated the act by "using official time and resources to engage in political activity." The group asks the special counsel's office to investigate which employees "relayed or took any other actions" regarding the letter and whether they were acting "with the knowledge or at the direction" of higher-ups.

"By all appearances, EPA is illegally using taxpayer dollars to promote political propaganda," PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch said in a news release announcing the complaint and noting that Trump is a declared candidate for re-election next year. "Federal offices should not be converted into Trump campaign centers." PEER, which describes itself as a service organization for state, local and federal employees, has been strongly critical of administration policies.

Mandy Gunasekara. National Association of Chemical Distributors

Press office staffers did not respond to an emailed request for comment on the allegations. A spokesman for the Office of Special Counsel, which is charged with investigating alleged Hatch Act violations, did not reply to phone and email messages seeking confirmation that the office had received the PEER complaint. The act generally bars federal employees from engaging in on-the-job partisan political activities. Violators can be fired, although that step is relatively rare. Late last year, for example, the Office of Special Counsel found that a half-dozen White House officials had violated the law by spreading partisan messages on their official Twitter accounts but gave them only warnings.

Gunasekara, a former aide to Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), had spent almost two years at EPA as a senior policy adviser and principal deputy assistant administrator in the Office of Air and Radiation before leaving to head a newly formed nongovernmental group dedicated to promoting the administration's energy policies (***Greenwire***, Feb. 7).

In the resignation letter, Gunasekara told Trump that he is "truly making America great again" and that "ensuring eight years of your leadership is of utmost importance." In an apparent slam at proposals advanced by Democratic lawmakers, she also voiced alarm at "dangerous rhetoric from the far-left supportive of Venezuelan-style socialism, government take-overs and crony 'green new deals.'"

The PEER complaint references an E&E News article on Gunasekara's departure that said the press office had supplied a copy of her resignation letter. Gunasekara's plans were first reported by the online news site *Axios*. E&E News then asked the press office to confirm the accuracy of the *Axios* story and also provide a copy of the letter. An employee there promptly did both. After E&E News further asked whether acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler or air chief Bill Wehrum had any comment, the agency later responded with a Wheeler statement calling Gunasekara a "vital member" of the president's team.

In the complaint, Ruch said the statement suggests that Wheeler knew in advance of her resignation and "may have played a role in distributing the letter." Reporters who covered the story may also have relevant information, he added. While Gunasekara's use of EPA letterhead stationery was also a Hatch Act violation, he said, the law's application to her is now moot because she has left government service.

Last year, the Office of Special Counsel cleared EPA after a federal employee union charged that the agency had run afoul of the Hatch Act with a tweet that cheered the Senates vote to confirm Wheeler as deputy administrator over Democratic opposition (***E&E News PM***, June 6, 2018).

https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2019/02/11/stories/1060120263

CHEMICAL WATCH ARTICLES

California SCP programme confirms flame retardant phase-out

Children's sleep products 'appear to be in compliance', testing shows

12 February 2019 / Children's products, Halocarbons, United States

Testing by California's Department of Toxic Substances Control has confirmed that children's sleep products sold in the state "appear to be in compliance" with its Safer Consumer Products (SCP) regulations.

California designated children's foam-padded sleeping products containing the flame retardants TDCPP and TCEP as its first 'priority product' under the SCP programme, effective in July 2017. And under the state's regulations, manufacturers had either to stop using the targeted chemicals, or to begin an analysis to determine if safer alternatives exist.

The agency received no notifications from manufacturers indicating they were planning to conduct such an analysis by the September 2017 deadline. The state therefore began carrying out compliance checks to ensure that the covered products were free from those substances.

In a report released last week, Testing Children's Foam-Padded Sleeping Products in California: A Summary of Findings, the DTSC confirmed that none of the 21 products it tested contained TDCPP or TCEP at levels that indicated they were intentionally added.

Based on these findings, it said it believes the substances are being phased out of these products and that no further compliance activities are warranted at this time.

Further findings

The report indicated that, despite finding no significant levels of TDCPP or TCEP in any of the products it tested, other common flame retardants that the regulations do not cover did appear in products at levels near or above 1,000 parts per million (ppm).

This included:

- the 'Firemaster' compound in a bassinet (1,160ppm) and a resting mat (57,852ppm);
- a mixture of TCEP, TCPP and TDCPP in a foam pillow (914ppm); and
- TCIPP in a cot (41,910ppm).

The testing further identified a product marked as meeting CertiPUR-US certification – an industry standard that certifies products have been tested and shown to be free of certain chemicals – which contained flame retardants not permitted under the scheme.

The DTSC also noted that testing revealed some manufacturers are using recycled foam in children's products, which "may increase the probability that products may contain unknown flame retardants at high concentrations".

But the report said that the products with high flame retardants were manufactured in 2013-15, or had no manufacture date. And since none of those manufactured within the last two years contained flame retardants, "we believe this may indicate manufacturers have started phasing out or have ceased adding flame retardants to these types of children's products," it said.

"Before DTSC listed children's foam-padded sleeping products as a priority product, we suspected manufacturers were gradually phasing out the use of flame retardants in children's products. It appears our regulations helped accelerate that trend," it added.

A California bill (AB 2998) was signed into law last autumn that will ban the use of all flame retardants above 1,000ppm in upholstered furniture and children's products, effective in 2020. The statute directs a separate state agency – the Bureau of Electronic and Appliance Repair, Home Furnishings, and Thermal Insulation (Bearhfti) – to conduct testing to ensure compliance.

Kelly Franklin
North America editor

Related Articles

- California designates first priority product under SCP programme
- California releases alternatives analysis guide for SCP programme
- California agency ramps up regulatory efforts under SCP programme
- Flame retardant ban signed into California law

Further Information:

- Report
- Priority product page

Canada adds 29 substances to DSL

12 February 2019 / Canada, Environmental Protection Act, Substance notification & inventories

The Canadian government has added 29 substances to the Domestic Substances List. Their addition to the country's inventory means they are no longer subject to substance notification and assessment requirements for new chemicals.

The DSL updates were set out in two *Gazette* notices. The changes are:

- twelve substances added to Part 1;
- fifteen confidential substances added to Part 3; and

- one substance added each to Part 2 and Part 4.

The final two substances have been subject to significant new activity (Snac) provisions under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (Cepa) even before their addition. They are:

- boron phosphate (B(PO4)), which had Snac provisions set out for it in June 2016; and
- quaternary ammonium compounds, bis(derivative oil alkyl)dimethyl, salts with smectite group minerals, which had Snac provisions applied in December 2017.

Related Articles

- Canada imposes Snac provisions on boron phosphate

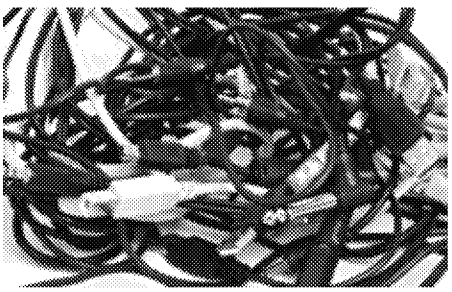
Further Information:

- Gazette notice (18 substances)
- Gazette notice (11 substances)

Norway finds high levels of chlorinated paraffins in electrical products

SCCPs and MCCPs detected

12 February 2019 / Electrical & electronics, Enforcement, Norway, REACH, SVHCs



Eleven samples of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) tested in Norway contained short- (SCCP) and medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCP) in concentrations above legal limits, the Norwegian Environment Agency has said.

They were among 67 consumer goods – including different textile and plastic materials – the agency examined for content of dechloranes, chlorinated paraffins, brominated flame retardants and phenolic antioxidants.

None of the products showed dechloranes or phenol antioxidants above the detection limit, the agency said. But in the 11 EEE samples, such as chargers and extension cables, the following results were obtained:

- three contained SCCPs well above the concentration limit of 0.15% by weight;
- seven contained MCCPs exceeding 0.1% by weight; and
- one contained traces of brominated flame retardants.

SCCPs have been identified as substances of very high concern (SVHC) under REACH and were added to the candidate list in 2008 for their persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) and very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) properties.

Articles containing SCCPs above 0.15% are also prohibited under the EU's persistent organic pollutants (POPs) Regulation.

MCCPs are on the EU's community rolling action plan (Corap) with the UK as the evaluating member state. They are suspected of having PBT and vPBT properties.

Both SCCPs and MCCPs are on Norway's national priority list of contaminants it intends to phase out. MCCPs are also under review for possible inclusion in the EU RoHS Directive.

The substances are used as flame retardants and plasticisers in a wide variety of products. SCCPs are primarily used in metallurgy, while MCCPs are used in various PVC products such as floor coverings, cable casings and insulation materials.

In the air

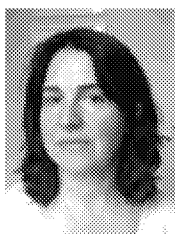
The Norwegian agency embarked on the tests, after a 2016 screening study of indoor air and dust revealed high concentrations of dechlorane compounds in nearly all of the samples.

It then set out to collect information on consumer articles to establish the sources for the compounds.

Dechlorane plus is marketed as an alternative to the banned brominated flame retardant DecaBDE. It was added to the REACH candidate list in January because of its vPvB properties.

The agency said the tested articles were purchased in April 2018. In addition, some samples were purchased in 2015 and 2016, and for others the date of purchase was unknown. Tests were conducted between May and November last year.

The concentration of SCCPs detected in the products ranged from 6ppm to approximately 37,000ppm, while that of MCCPs was between 21ppm to around 113,000ppm, the agency said.



Clelia Oziel
EMEA correspondent

Related Articles

- EU Council backs lower POPs limit on decaBDE flame retardants
- Norway's EPA recommends two substances for phase-out list

- Set EU RoHS methodology before more assessment, industry says
- Seven SVHCs added to EU REACH candidate list

Further Information:

- Press release
  Report

EU begins consultation to evaluate FCM legislation

12 February 2019 / Europe, Food & drink, Food contact

The European Commission has begun a public consultation on the evaluation of the EU's food contact materials (FCM) legislation.

It started the evaluation process officially in October last year. The legislation has never been assessed, since basic provisions were set out 42 years ago.

The public consultation, which runs from 11 February to 6 May, is divided in two parts, the Commission said.

The first part is addressed to citizens – those who should "ideally" not have any specialist knowledge on food contact materials; and the second part to experts or those with prior knowledge of FCM laws and who work in the field.

Evaluation project contractor Ecorys will also set up a SME panel this year. A draft final report is expected in the summer, with a second stakeholder workshop planned for September.

The final report is slated to be ready by October.

Related Articles

- EU Commission begins evaluation of FCM regulation

Further Information:

- Commission evaluation page

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OTHER ARTICLES

My turn: 'Green chemistry' makes products safer. Here's how California can do better

CALmatters

In this real-life version of the carnival game, individual **toxic chemicals** are banned or regulated, only to be replaced by similar chemicals that have not ...

'Clean', 'Non-Toxic' & 'Natural' Labels On Beauty Products Are Nonsense, Says Derm

Refinery29

'Clean', 'Non-Toxic' & 'Natural' Labels On Beauty Products Are Nonsense, ... goodies for us to smear ourselves in, devoid of those **toxic chemicals**.