

This is the weekly bulletin of the TURI Library at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Greenlist Bulletin provides previews of recent publications and websites relevant to reducing the use of toxic chemicals by industries, businesses, communities, individuals and government. You are welcome to send a message to mary@turi.org if you would like more information on any of the articles listed here, or if this email is not displaying properly.

Walmart takes bold steps towards safer chemicals

Source: GreenBiz.com, September 27, 2017
Author: Boma Brown-West

Today, Walmart updated their ambitious sustainable chemistry policy on consumables, which to-date has resulted in a 96 percent reduction in the weight of high-priority chemicals. The new commitments set a goal of reducing Walmart's chemicals footprint by 10 percent by 2022, affecting over 55 million pounds of priority chemicals.

Reducing chemicals of concern from products is a major interest for consumers as science increasingly shows that certain chemicals prevalent in products can impact our health. At the Environmental Defense Fund, we have worked closely with Walmart on science-based targets and a framework for corporate leadership to protect consumer health and scale impact. Walmart's announcement signals to 700 global suppliers of 90,000 consumable products that reducing the company's chemical footprint is a priority.

[Read more...](#)

See statement from Walmart, "[Walmart Strengthens Sustainable Chemistry Commitment, Reports Progress in Safer Product Formulation](#)".

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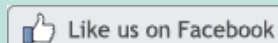
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Upcoming Events

Beyond the MSDS Workshop - Lowell, MA

Monday, October 2, 2017

11:00am-1:30pm

Solvents, cleaners, catalysts, and other chemicals can contribute to cancer, asthma, neurological disease, birth defects, and other health problems. But safer alternatives often exist. This free, 2 ½ hour, informal, interactive workshop presented by the Toxics

Use Reduction Institute (TURI) will give you a hands-on opportunity to use online databases and other tools for choosing the safest chemical alternatives. If you use chemicals, we encourage you to attend.

Visit this [page](#) for more information.

Space is LIMITED.

MEPs vote down endocrine disruptor criteria, back acrylamide regulation

Source: [Euractiv.com](#), September 29, 2017

Author: Samuel White

The European Parliament's environment (ENVI) committee objected to the Commission's proposed criteria for endocrine disruptors on Thursday (28 September), and threw out another objection to the executive's proposal to regulate levels of cancer-causing acrylamide in food.

"The danger posed by acrylamide in Europe today is certainly bigger than that posed by glyphosate or fipronil," German MEP Peter Leise (EPP group), a doctor, said during the ENVI committee debate. "And if we remember the discussion we had about these substances then we must take this seriously."

The European Commission released in July a draft regulation containing binding measures to limit citizens' exposure to the known carcinogen, which forms when certain foods, particularly, potatoes, cereals and coffee, are processed at high temperatures.

[Read more...](#)

See information from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences on [Endocrine Disruptors](#).

Also see information from the US EPA regarding [Endocrine Disruption](#), including information on the [Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program \(EDSP\)](#).

Search The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX) [List of Potential Endocrine Disruptors](#).

Green Approaches To Engineer Tough Biobased Epoxies: A Review

Source: [ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering](#), September 25, 2017

Authors: Ghodsieh Mashouf Roudsari, Amar K. Mohanty, and Manjusri Misra

Epoxy resins possess a variety of excellent properties including adhesion, mechanical performance, electrical insulation and chemical resistance; however, cured epoxy resin is brittle and typically petroleum based. Rising concerns about depletion of nonrenewable resources and climate change have resulted in attempts to find green alternatives for petroleum based materials and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. The present review is aimed to discuss green approaches to overcome epoxy resins brittleness and deal with ongoing research strategies to make tough biobased epoxies. First, the key

toughening modifiers such as rubbers, thermoplastics, nanofillers, dendritic and block copolymers are briefly discussed and pros and cons of each method are presented. Then, the studies that followed green approaches are thoroughly reviewed. The utilization of epoxidized vegetable oils, biobased hyperbranched polymers and biobased copolymers in epoxy matrix are discussed. The challenges for commercialization of biobased modifiers are assessed and the present and prospective status of research and development of the tough biobased epoxies are explored.

[Read more...](#)

RAC concludes on 10 opinions for harmonised classification and labelling

[Source: European Chemicals Agency, September 27, 2017](#)

The Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) concluded on 10 opinions for harmonised classification and labelling, including cobalt metal, titanium dioxide and metaldehyde. ...

RAC and SEAC agreed on four draft opinions on specific uses of chromium (VI) substances and 1,2-dichloroethane (EDC) under the authorisation procedure. The draft opinions will be sent to the applicants for comments before final adoption.

The Committees also finalised their work on one application for authorisation by adopting the opinion on the use of sodium dichromate as an *in situ* corrosion inhibitor in a closed water/ammonia absorption cooling system.

More information on the 10 adopted opinions on harmonised classification and labelling (CLH) is available in the annex.

RAC also began work on evaluating three dossiers prepared by ECHA on occupational exposure limits (OELs) for nickel and compounds, benzene and acrylonitrile.

[Read more...](#)

See from *Chemical & Engineering News*, "[EU authorization program credited with safer substitution](#)".

Tattoo inks go more than skin deep

[Source: Chemical & Engineering News, September 25, 2017](#)

Author: Katharine Sanderson

Hard evidence has emerged that nano-sized particles from tattoo inks travel from the skin where they're embedded to a person's lymph nodes, where they get stuck.

Tattoo inks contain a wide range of chemicals and heavy metals, including some that are potentially toxic. Because of concerns about this potential toxicity, last year, the Joint Research Centre, which provides advice to the European Commission, issued a report highlighting the need for funding into research on tattoo ink toxicity and how tattoo inks break down in the body.

Plenty of circumstantial evidence exists to show that tattoo pigments travel around the body, says Ines Schreiber, a researcher at the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment in Berlin. "Physicians had seen that lymph tissue of tattooed people was colored," she explains, but details about the pigments in the lymph nodes, which act as filters for the human body and are an important part of the immune system, are scarce.

[Read more...](#)

See report from the European Commission, "[Safety of tattoos and permanent make-up: Final report](#)".

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