

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](mailto:mary@turi.org) if you would like more information on any of the articles listed here, or if this email is not displaying properly.

## Lower concentration limit proposed for PAHs found in granules and mulches

[Source: European Chemicals Agency, August 16, 2018](#)

The Netherlands has prepared a proposal to support a possible restriction to address the risks from eight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) found in granules and mulches used in synthetic turf pitches, or in loose forms at playgrounds and other sports facilities. ...

The proposal, prepared by the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) in cooperation with ECHA, states that the general concentration limits set under REACH for eight carcinogenic PAHs in mixtures are insufficient for protecting those who come into contact with the granules and mulches while playing at sports facilities and playgrounds.

In its assessment, RIVM looks at the human health risk for professional football players (including goalkeepers), children playing on the pitches and on playgrounds, as well as workers installing and maintaining the pitches and playgrounds.

The proposal suggests a combined concentration limit for the eight PAHs of **17 mg/kg** (0.0017 % by weight). The current concentration limits applicable for supply to the general public are set at 100 mg/kg for two of the PAHs and 1,000 mg/kg for the other six.

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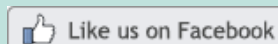
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## Beyond The Safety Data Sheet: Finding Information on Chemical Hazards

**Thursday, August 23, 2018  
10:00AM to 1:00PM**

**OFS Fitel**  
50 Hall Road  
Sturbridge, MA 01566

Solvents, cleaners, catalysts, and

[Read more...](#)

See from *Chemical Watch*, "[Norway's EPA proposes artificial turf microplastics pollution rules](#)".

*TURI's Note:* See our [Library Guide on Artificial Turf](#) as well as our [fact sheet](#).

other chemicals can contribute to cancer, asthma, neurological disease, birth defects, and other health problems. But safer alternatives often exist. This free, 3 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 that give you more current and complete information on chemicals, and help you identify safer substitutes. If you use chemicals, we encourage you to attend.

MassDEP has approved this event for 3 continuing education credits.

Space is very limited. Find more information and register [here](#).

## **DDT linked to an increase in autism risk in new study**

*Source:* [Environmental Health News, August 16, 2018](#)

*Author:* Heather Mongilio

The discontinued pesticide DDT is linked to an increased risk of autism, according to a new study out of Columbia University Medical Center.

The study, published today in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, found that a mother's exposure to DDT increased the risk of her child developing autism spectrum disorder.

The study builds on previous evidence that the environmental toxic is linked to developmental impacts in children exposed in utero, and is significant as autism rates keep growing in the U.S. and researchers don't yet know what causes the disorder. Approximately one in 59 kids in the U.S. has autism -- up from one in 150 in the year 2000.

[Read more...](#)

See study in *American Journal of Psychiatry*, "[Association of Maternal Insecticide Levels With Autism in Offspring From a National Birth Cohort](#)".

## **GC3 Announces Preservative Challenge Winners**

*Source:* [Pharma Intelligence, 2018](#)

*Author:* Ryan Nelson

More than two years after its initial announcement, the Green Chemistry & Commerce Council's Preservatives Challenge has wrapped, with seven winners named. ...

Avisco has been studying the "sturdy perennial shrub" since 2002, specifically a potent phenotype that grows wild in Israel where it has adapted to the harsh climate by producing high levels of defensive resin to fend off fungi, bacteria and insects.

The company notes the plant's long history of traditional medicine use.

Avisco now cultivates *Inula viscosa* as an organic crop for its *Aivorex* product, a standardized *Inula viscosa* oleo resin extract derived from the plant's leaves.

[Read more...](#)

See more information on the [GC3's Preservative Project Competition for New Preservatives](#). Also see their ["Need Statement & Development Criteria for New Preservatives for Personal Care & Household Products"](#).

## Trump Administration is considering reweighing costs and benefits of EPA regulations

[Source: Chemical and Engineering News, August 5, 2018](#)

Author: Cheryl Hogue

The Trump administration has the Environmental Protection Agency's hood up and is studying how to slow the engine that drives the agency's regulatory activities. In response to a broad presidential directive on deregulation, EPA political appointees are asking the public how to rewire an analytical motor that helps determine how strictly -- or whether -- the agency curbs pollution. Depending on what strategy they settle on, modifications could substantially pare back the agency's horsepower for controlling pollution and weaken the limits it sets for water, air, and land.

This work revolves around how the agency calculates the dollar value of regulations. Since the Reagan administration in the 1980s, the White House has required federal agencies to calculate the costs and benefits of proposed rules and demonstrate that the benefits will outweigh the costs. This long-standing economics practice isn't directly at issue. Rather, EPA is focusing on a component of those calculations that critics contend inappropriately weights analyses in favor of regulation.

That analytical part takes into account side benefits of EPA regulations. Specifically, it considers reductions in a pollutant or pollutants that aren't the target of a regulation. For example, technology designed to strip airborne mercury out of a power plant exhaust stack also removes pollutants that can form fine particulate matter. EPA adds up the economic value of these indirect effects, called cobenefits or ancillary benefits, and includes them in its calculation of the overall benefits of a regulation.

[Read more...](#)

Also see from *Chemical & Engineering News*, ["Court orders EPA to ban chlorpyrifos"](#).

## Study finds EU mutagens and carcinogens regulatory gaps

[Source: Chemical Watch, August 15, 2018](#)

European regulators could be missing environmental and public health risks posed by carcinogenic and mutagenic substances because of a disconnect between REACH and CLP requirements, Dutch experts have warned.

REACH information requirements do not generate enough data to conclude that a substance is a category 1B mutagen and/or carcinogen under the CLP Regulation, according to the scientists from the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM).

The Dutch team compared how the two flagship legislations handled data for each of these endpoints in a paper published in August in the journal *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment*.

They concluded that REACH data requirements and CLP classification requirements don't line up.

[Read more...](#)

See paper in *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment*, "[Does REACH provide sufficient information to regulate mutagenic and carcinogenic substances?](#)".

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## Massachusetts Firefighters to Get Better Benefits for Cancer Treatment

Source: [Emergency Management, August 13, 2018](#)

Author: Christian M. Wade

(TNS) -- Exposure to toxic chemicals is a routine part of the job for firefighters, increasing their risk for cancer and other illnesses.

State leaders are now taking steps to help protect them, including a bill recently signed by Gov. Charlie Baker that designates cancer as a work-related injury for state and local firefighters.

The designation gives firefighters diagnosed with cancer better medical coverage, paid leave and more access to disability benefits.

[Read more...](#)

See more information about [The Cancer Presumption Law](#).

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## Chemical Safety and Climate Change Preparedness

Source: [MA Office of Technology and Technical Assistance](#)

Find OTA chemical safety and climate change preparedness training resources for businesses, municipalities and communities.

The project brings businesses and municipalities together to provide resources and models for incorporating toxics use reduction into emergency preparedness to reduce the risk of industrial accidents.

[Read more...](#)

See a recent video on [OTA's Chemical Safety and Climate Change Resilience Resources](#).

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