

FLEXIBLE VINYL MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 2014



~~UNSAFE~~

INFORM, ADVOCATE, ACT

WWW.FLEXVINYLALLIANCE.COM

The Flexible Vinyl Alliance (FVA) is a coalition of over 90 companies representing the full value chain of the flexible vinyl industry from resin supply to compounding, manufacturing and retail. The FVA is further affiliated with 900 additional businesses through its allied trade relationships.

FVA ASKS CPSC FOR "MEASURED" REGULATORY RESPONSE POST-CHAP

In a September 11th letter to the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) Chairman Elliot Kaye, organizations including FVA, SPI, VI and RFCI encouraged CPSC to promote a "measured and thorough regulatory response concerning the continued affordability and availability of the common plasticizers/phthalates deemed essential and safe ingredients in the commerce of flexible vinyl applications and product categories, which number in the thousands, inclusive of military articles, medical devices, automotive parts and fabrics, wire and cable, commercial roofing, industrial flooring, home and wall coverings, and myriad recreational products such as boats and rafts, and, toys."

The letter addressed the Chronic Hazard Advisory Panel (CHAP) study on phthalates in children's toys, commissioned in 2008 by

federal statute. The CHAP Report was released on July 18th.

The FVA letter to Chairman Kaye was in response to a Congressional letter of August 1st that stated that "the CHAP's findings are alarming...and that although the statute requires CPSC to act within 180 days, we urge you to move forward... without delay." As FVA commented, "a careful reader of the CHAP report would **not** find the conclusions 'alarming' - the CHAP did recommend lifting the restriction on DIDP - a recommendation we can agree with, and made other recommendations which we would like to see scrutinized during a comment period, but there is certainly no cause for alarm as posted in the Congressional letter." Full text of the FVA letter is available on the FVA website. The CHAP report can be seen at <http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/169902/CHAP-REPORT-With-Appendices.pdf>

In The News

Vinyl in Hospital Environments

Europe's PVCMed Alliance has published a richly illustrated booklet entitled "Vinyl in Super Hospitals." The 50-page booklet contains many examples of how vinyl coverings are contributing to hygienic, aesthetic, economic and environmentally friendly hospital environments all over the world.

Vinyl offers architects an almost infinite range of design possibilities while offering high hygienic properties. Vinyl's smooth and stain-resistant surface structure reduces the risk of multiplication of pathogens, thereby minimizing the risk of infections.



The CDC Reports 75,000 patients died in U.S. hospitals in 2011 due to HAI's, or hospital acquired infections. <http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/surveillance/index.html>

"Vinyl in Super Hospitals" also deals with sustainability and the many environmental improvements made by the healthcare industry during the last decade.

More information is available at <http://www.pvcmed.org/vinyl-in-hospitals-new-booklet-on-pvc-use-in-hospital-environments/>

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

American Chemistry Council (ACC) to Work with the US Green Building Council (USGBC)

Issues surrounding “Green Building” standards continue to percolate throughout the vinyl value chain. While much is happening on this front, there are continued questions regarding the validity of the US Green Building Council (USGBC) employing “Red Lists” in the latest iteration of its guidance, known as LEED v4. The American Chemistry Council (ACC) has committed to a new initiative designed to ensure the use of sustainable and environmentally protective products in buildings by applying technical and science-based approaches to the LEED green building program. This new initiative acknowledges USGBC’s success in leading the transformation of the built environment and establishes a pathway to access the materials science expertise within ACC and its membership.



“USGBC and ACC share the goal of advancing sustainability in the built environment, and we will work together to take advantage of our collective strength and experience,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chair of USGBC. “The looming impacts of climate change and the possibilities of improving human health and well-being favor collaboration and engagement as key strategies. The goal is forward progress.”

It is believed that USGBC, as the leader of the green building movement, combined with the scientific expertise within ACC, can develop a path to stronger, scientific-based standards that achieve measurable progress in sustainability.

Please visit FVA’s Group on LinkedIn for details www.linkedin.com.

FVA Delivers DfE White Paper to EPA Officials

On June 11th, FVA presented the final FVA White Paper: *Case Study of a Phthalates Alternative Assessment for Use in PVC Jacketed Network Cable* to the EPA’s Design for the Environment (DfE) officials. This concluded a 15-month priority project for FVA and offered EPA an example of the complexity and considerations surrounding the formulation change of a safe and functional ingredient.

There are no estimates for EPA DfE publication of its Alternatives for Certain Phthalates Partnership report. During the meeting, FVA requested inclusion of the White Paper in the appendix of the EPA DfE report when it’s published.

Special thanks to all FVA members that contributed to the FVA White Paper. FVA will present the White Paper at the IWCS event noted in the ‘Important Dates’ section of this newsletter. For a copy of the document, please contact Kevin Ott.



Connect with FVA on LinkedIn
and on the FVA Website

www.flexvinylalliance.com
www.linkedin.com

Important Dates

SPE VinylTec 2014

October 20 - 22, 2014
Indianapolis, IN
<http://www.4spe.org/>

GreenBuild Conference and Expo

October 22 - 24, 2014
New Orleans, LA
<http://greenbuildexpo.com/>

International Cable and Connectivity Symposium (IWCS)

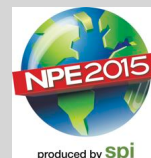
November 9 - 12, 2014
Providence, RI
www.iwcs.org

VI Annual Meeting

November 12 - 14, 2014
Turnberry Isle
Miami, FL
www.vinylinfo.org

NPE 2015

The International
Plastics Showcase
March 23 - 27, 2015
Orlando, FL
<http://www.npe.org/>



Membership

For more information and to join:

The Flexible Vinyl Alliance is an advocacy network with over 200 registered and active members that have flexible vinyl interests and who represent the industry’s full value chain. The FVA helps to educate and connect companies to state and local issues with potential business impact. Membership is free of charge.

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