

FLEXIBLE VINYL MATTERS

DECEMBER 2014



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.

CPSC RULE-MAKING MOVING FORWARD: COMMENT PERIOD ANNOUNCED

The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) held an open meeting on December 17 to consider a NPR (Notice of Proposed Rule-making) following in the footsteps of the CHAP Report (Chronic Hazard Advisory Panel). The CHAP published its recommendations in July of 2014 addressing the continued use of certain phthalates in child products and mouth-able toys. The rule-making is going forward and will be published in the Federal Register, with an allowance for a 75-day comment period. This will yield a comment deadline on or near March 15.

In July, FVA sent a letter to CPSC commissioner Eliot Kaye expressing concerns with the content and timing of any regulatory action in the context of CHAP. FVA highlighted negative impacts on the vinyl value chain if any rule-making was "fast-tracked" without full opportunity

for comment. The industry will now have that opportunity.

Under the new proposed rule, a permanent ban on DINP (along with DIBP, DPENP, DHEXP, and DCHP) is recommended with a concurrent lifting of the interim ban on DIDP. The unpublished draft rule can be seen at <http://www.cpsc.gov/Global/Newsroom/FOIA/CommissionBriefingPackages/2015/ProposedRule-Phthalates-112514.pdf>.

Once the proposed rule is published, FVA will contact the vinyl value chain for comments. FVA members could have a significant impact on the rule, in particular with respect to the use of cumulative risk assessment methodologies to regulate industrial chemicals, and broadening the scope beyond mouth-able children's toys to toys for children up to the age of twelve.



In The News

FIGHTING EBOLA: PVC's Role

The U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), as America's public health agency, continues its emergency response to "the most complex Ebola epidemic in history." CDC's response is the largest global effort in the agency's history according to CDC Director Tom Frieden. As of December 15, CDC has 170 people in the field and more than 700 people working on the Ebola crisis. The outbreak of Ebola is still far from contained in western Africa and remains a top global health concern. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates there are currently more than 18,000 active Ebola cases worldwide.

The role of flexible vinyl and other plastic-based products has been crucial to virus containment efforts. Those products include Isolation suits, chambers and gowns, goggles, masks, hair covers, filters, helmets and hoods for both isolation and healthcare worker protection. Disposable gloves, shoe covers, utensils, meal trays, trash bags and burial bags are all constructed using flexible PVC. Additionally, fluid bags and blood bags are made predominantly out of flexible PVC. PVC helps save lives.



For a view of a typical isolation chamber for infectious disease, please visit <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/gallery/inside-ebola-unit-royal-free-4098233>

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

USGBC Delays LEED v4

The implementation of U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED v4 is being pushed back by a year and a half, to Oct. 31, 2016. The delay has been explained as un-readiness of the federal and private sector markets to adopt LEED v4 given its complexity.

The vinyl industry, through various efforts, led by ACC-funded American High Performance Buildings Coalition, has been persistent in their determination to modify LEED v4. The unfortunate aspect of LEED v4 is that it includes a disclosure and optimization (reformulation) credit that discriminates against vinyl and other building materials. LEED v4 advances a "red list" philosophy stipulating that avoiding certain materials ensures the "best" product choice.

During this 18-month period, the USGBC, ACC, RFCI and the Vinyl Institute will participate on a 29-member LEED Supply Chain Optimization Working Group. The new group is tasked with "exploring new and innovative ideas to evolve LEED v4 materials credits" and for the first time includes representatives from plastics industry interests including DuPont, Bayer, Occidental Chemical and Shaw Industries. Please check these respective trade group websites or visit FVA's LinkedIn page for more information.



EPA Issues a Chemical Action Plan "Refresh"

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on October 23, 2014, that it has updated its Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Work Plan for Chemical Assessments. According to EPA, the updated TSCA Work Plan reflects updated data on chemical releases and potential exposures that EPA received as part of the Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) Rule and the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program. EPA removed or consolidated 16 chemicals, most of which are believed to be no longer in commerce in the United States. EPA added another 23 chemicals, indicating that they were previously considered of moderate concern. EPA will consider these 23 chemicals, that include phthalates DIDP and DINP, for assessment after 2017. FVA plans to meet with EPA officials during the course of 2015 to determine relevant input during the assessment process. More information is available on TSCA Work Plan Chemicals on EPA's website.

Important Dates

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



SOMCA's 7th Annual Congressional Fly-In
April 21 - 22, 2015
Washington, DC
www.socma.com

SPE's VinylTec 2015
October 13 - 15, 2015
Fairlawn Hilton
Akron, OH
www.4spe.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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