

# FLEXIBLE VINYL MATTERS

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS EDITION 2016



**INFORM, ADVOCATE, ACT**  
[WWW.FLEXVINYLALLIANCE.COM](http://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.

### GSA Recognizes GBI's Green Globes for New Construction and Sustainable Interiors

**T**he Green Building Initiative (GBI) was bolstered by the recent decision by the US General Services Administration (GSA) on November 15th to recognize GBI's *Green Globes* certification as a permitted certification program for use in GSA's federal leasing activities.

This decision came after the GSA's Office of Leasing completed a months-long review and update of its leasing documents. The revised documents were finalized October 12th and were recently made available on GSA's website [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov).

The revisions to GSA's Request for Lease Proposals (RLP) and lease templates recognize *Green Globes* for new construction and as an option for new leased spaces where green building certification is required for any building over

10,000 square feet.

The majority of federal agencies occupy leased space. The use of *Green Globes* provides the market with another option, beyond LEED, to make the footprint of green building-certified space more economical. The GSA Office of Leasing is a growing segment of the GSA's work within the federal footprint. Over the past decade, the GSA's percentage of owned versus leased federal office space has shifted with the Office of Leasing now overseeing about 51 percent of the total federal government portfolio.

For further reading on the topic, visit: [www.thegbi.org/about-gbi/press-room-content/](http://www.thegbi.org/about-gbi/press-room-content/)



## In The News

### "Windshield Time" is Better and Safer With Vinyl

Whether it's to visit Grandma or holidays on the ski slopes, you are likely to be spending quality time in the family vehicle. And thanks to vinyl for making each road trip more safe and enjoyable.

Did you know....vinyl provides shock-absorbing surfaces including the dashboard and arm rests, and increases comfort while reducing the risk of injury in an accident. Modern vinyl upholstery also combines leather-like softness with added durability and low maintenance.

Driving in the rain or wet snow? Many components in a vehicle's windshield washing system are made of vinyl to enhance performance during inclement weather.

Vinyl coverings on vehicle wiring ensures that everything stays dry and all electrical components function allowing you to get on to holiday business.

Enjoying a peaceful ride with kids sleeping in the back seat? You can thank the vinyl coatings and linings used in body panels, undercarriage protection and the backing on carpeting that muffles noise of the engine and the tires rolling over pavement.

When auto manufacturers use vinyl in place of heavier materials, a vehicle's weight is reduced, and thereby the amount of fuel needed. Upside for you...more money to spend on holiday treats.

Enjoy your time on the road and happy holidays from FVA!

## ADVOCACY IN ACTION

### Comprehensive Industry Response to Phthalate Petition at FDA Continues

A Food Additive Petition (FAP) was filed by a group of NGOs (multiple environmental and citizens lobbies) last spring and calls on FDA to revoke a number of the existing regulatory clearances for 30 ortho-phthalates, some of which are used in food packaging and processing applications.

The FAP requests that these ortho-phthalate clearances be revoked on the basis that the substances are not safe under their permitted conditions of use. Through the Ortho-Phthalates Coalition (OPC) managed by FVA, steps have been taken to respond to the NGO's FAP. Comments were filed September 12, part of the hundreds now on public record, addressing a number of deficiencies and errors in the NGOs filing, and specifically demonstrate that the NGOs:

- (1) incorrectly group all ortho-phthalates into one chemically and pharmacologically related class of compounds, and therefore wrongly assert that dietary exposures to all ortho-phthalates should be considered cumulatively;
- (2) incorrectly calculate and apply the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) level cited in the FAP; and,
- (3) incorrectly estimate the current dietary exposures for ortho-phthalates.

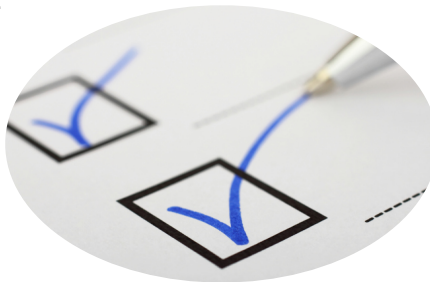
As a next step, FVA intends to submit a separate FAP to FDA on behalf of the Ortho-Phthalates Coalition that requests the Agency revoke the existing clearances for most of the ortho-phthalates that are the subject of the NGO FAP on the basis of abandonment of use. A survey is under development by OPC counsel and will be issued in early 2017, and will inform the specifics of the abandonment petition.

For information, to learn more about the issue or to support the effort, please contact Kevin Ott at FVA at 202-721-4125. This matter will remain an FVA and industry priority through Q2 2017. For a written brief on the efforts of the Ortho-Phthalates Coalition, please visit [www.flexvinylalliance.com](http://www.flexvinylalliance.com) under the Industry News tab.

### EPA Selects First 10 Chemicals for Risk Evaluation Under New TSCA

The EPA recently publicized, ahead of schedule, the highly anticipated list of chemicals selected for risk-evaluation under the new TSCA law, the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. This is an important milestone in implementing the new law and will likely prove to be the beginning of an iterative process. The chemicals all come from the 2014 EPA Workplan as required by law. The first ten chemicals to be evaluated are:

1,4-Dioxane  
1-Bromopropane  
Asbestos  
Carbon Tetrachloride  
Cyclic Aliphatic Bromide Cluster  
Methylene Chloride  
N-methylpyrrolidone  
Pigment Violet 29  
Tetrachloroethylene (also known as perchloroethylene)  
Trichloroethylene



Some of the criteria important to the EPA in selecting chemicals for the work plan continue to be concern for children's health, neurotoxicity, persistence/bioaccumulation/toxicity (PBT), carcinogenicity, use in children's products and detection in biomonitoring programs or in drinking water. More information can be seen at [EPA's website](http://EPA's website).

## Important Dates

### VinylPlus Sustainability Forum

May 10 - 11, 2017

Berlin, Germany

<http://www.vinylplus.eu>



### PIA

#### Flexible Vinyl Products Division

#### Annual Compounds Meeting

July 9 - 11, 2017

Denver, CO

[www.plasticsindustry.org](http://www.plasticsindustry.org)

**\*\* SPI is now PIA \*\***

### SPE VinylTec

October 10 - 12, 2017

San Antonio, TX

[https://](https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/218021)

[www.eiseverywhere.com/](https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/218021)

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## Membership

### For more information and to join:

In 2017, thanks to the support from dedicated stakeholders, the Flexible Vinyl Alliance will continue its advocacy work on behalf of the manufacturers, compounders, formulators and allied interests that represent the \$20 billion North American flexible vinyl industry.

To keep current on all matters vinyl, please join FVA's LinkedIn group and visit the website. Please consider joining FVA's 200+ active members.

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