

Softlines E-ssentials

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Three New Public Health Goals for California



The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has published three new Public Health Goals (PHGs) for Chemicals in Drinking Water. The PHGs are for the substances benzo(a)pyrene, methoxychlor and TCDD (dioxin) (see table, next page).

A PHG sets the level of contamination for a specific chemical at which adverse health effects are not expected to occur from a lifetime of exposure. The California Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996 requires OEHHA to develop PHGs based exclusively on public health considerations and to review them at least once every five years as new scientific data becomes available. A PHG may be set at zero if the OEHHA deems it necessary.

The OEHHA has also extended the public comment period for its intention to list tribufos (DEF) under Proposition 65¹ to 15 November 2010. In addition, it has issued a formal request for information on six other chemicals² that it is considering for the Proposition 65 list:

cocamide diethanolamine, kresoxim-methyl, mon 4660, mon 13900, pymetrozine, and tetraconazole. The OEHHA is also finalising its PHG for hexavalent chromium after receiving comments on its draft from external scientific peer reviewers³. Hexavalent chromium is also under consideration for listing under Proposition 65.

WHAT BUSINESSES NEED TO DO

The OEHHA is clearly very proactive about controlling chemical hazards, and businesses must be prepared to adapt to the state's increasingly complex laws and regulations.

PHGs issued by OEHHA are considered by the California Department of Public Health in setting drinking water standards (Maximum Contaminant Levels, or MCLs). Changes in drinking water standards often result in product recalls which can subsequently result in new regulations for textile and leather manufacturers. Businesses in these industries should therefore take note of the OEHHA's new PHGs as it is likely that these standards will become applicable to products in the future.

¹ See the 14 September 2010 issue of Softlines E-ssentials: https://www.tuv-sud.in/APMKT/pdf/Softlines_E-ssentials_14_September_2010.pdf

² Read the notice at http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/CRNR_notices/admin_listing/requests_info/pdf/DCIABPKg37.pdf

³ Read the notice at <http://oehha.ca.gov/water/phg/chrom092010.html>

(continued from page 1)

As a precautionary measure, companies should conduct a risk assessment to see if they meet the requirements stated in the three new PHGs as well as the PHGs of tribufos and chromium compounds. They can also ask an expert body to conduct a risk assessment for them, provided that the assessing body is recognised.

TÜV SÜD's ISO 17025-accredited laboratories are fully-equipped and prepared to conduct such assessments. Our experts can help evaluate your business's discharge levels for these and other chemicals known to cause cancer or to be toxic to reproductive systems. ■

TABLE A: NEW PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS FOR CHEMICALS IN DRINKING WATER

Chemical and its source	Old level (parts per billion)	New level (parts per billion)
Benzo(a)pyrene ⁴ : a discharge in creosote-treated wood processing facilities. The ground water from five wood treatment facilities in the U.S. was reported to have an average concentration of 57 ppb.	0.004	0.007
Methoxychlor ⁵ : a pesticide whose use was suspended in California in 1995. The major exposure risks now would be from imported commodities grown outside the U.S.	30	0.09
2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) ⁶ : a discharge from wood pulp and paper processing facilities.	0.00003	0.00000005

⁴ Download the final technical support document from <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/water/phg/pdf/091610Benzopyrene.pdf>

⁵ Download the final technical support document from <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/water/phg/pdf/091610MXC.pdf>

⁶ Download the final technical support document from http://www.oehha.ca.gov/water/phg/pdf/091610TCDD_RespCom.pdf

U.S. Government Publishes First-Ever Textile and Apparel Export Guide

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA) has published an export guide for textile and apparel products¹, the first time OTEXA has ever released a report of its kind.

The 70-page manual highlights the top 15 markets worldwide for U.S. textiles and apparel and briefly describes the licensing,

¹ Download the full guide from <http://otexa.ita.doc.gov/PDFs/GoingGlobal.pdf>

tariffs and transportation requirements for each market as well as any applicable trade agreements the U.S. Government shares with the country concerned. The document also contains links to webpages on OTEXA's website that contain more comprehensive information on the standards, labelling and product testing requirements of each country along with any relevant bans or restrictions affecting importers.

With our global network of ISO 17025-accredited laboratories, TÜV SÜD can help facilitate your product's entry into foreign markets by conducting pre-shipment inspections based on the importing country's standards. Our team of technical specialists can perform third party independent verifications to show that a product meets the regulatory and quality requirements of the U.S. and all its major trading partners. ■

New ISO Assessment Standards for Bedding Items Released

The International Standards Organisation (ISO) has released a revised version of the ISO 12952 test standards related to the ignitability of bedding items.

Part 1 of the new standard, "Ignition source: smouldering cigarette", specifies the test methods for assessing the ignitability of bedding items when subjected to a

smouldering cigarette whereas Part 2 "Ignition source: match-flame equivalent" describes the test procedures for assessing the ignitability of bedding items when subjected to a flame the equivalent of a match.

The revised test standards apply to textile-based bedding items normally placed on a mattress such as:

- mattress covers, sheets and underlays;
- incontinence sheets and pads;
- blankets, quilts and covers;
- pillows (regardless of the filling), bolsters and their pillowcases; and
- electric blankets.

The standard does not apply to mattresses, bed bases and mattress pads. ■

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