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SOLVENTS NEWS YOU CAN USE

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PROPOSED MARYLAND LEGISLATION WOULD RESTRICT CERTAIN USES OF TRICHLOROETHYLENE AND METHYLENE CHLORIDE

In the State of Maryland, legislation was introduced in the House of Delegates which would restrict the use of trichloroethylene (TCE) for spot cleaning by dry cleaners and for aerosol degreasers and the use of methylene chloride (DCM) in paint strippers. The legislation mirrors regulations proposed by the Obama Administration. On March 13th, HSIA testified against the legislation in Annapolis and submitted written comments. HSIA asked that Maryland wait until EPA's upcoming risk evaluations on the two chemicals under the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act are completed. The legislation does not appear to have crossed over to the Senate for consideration as of last week's deadline and not having done so severely limits its ability to move forward.

CPSC ACTS ON LABEL CHANGES FOR HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS CONTAINING METHYLENE CHLORIDE

On March 21st, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) published a Statement of Enforcement Policy approving enhanced labeling for household products containing methylene chloride (most notably paint strippers) making it very clear that these products should not be used for bathtub refinishing. In a related development, HSIA commented on the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's proposal to list methylene chloride-based paint strippers as a "priority product."

NEW YORK STATE COMPLETES ITS LOOK AT THE USE OF PERCHLOROETHYLENE AND ALTERNATIVES IN THE DRY CLEANING INDUSTRY

On March 10th, New York State adopted its proposed dry cleaning rule. Perchloroethylene remains an approved solvent in mixed use commercial and stand alone buildings. Alternative solvents were loosely regulated but the State may take another look at them down the road. HSIA participated in the process, along with the National Cleaners Association, by commenting in person in Albany and filing written comments.

HSIA COMMENTS ON THE IRIS PROCESS AT A NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REVIEW

On February 1st, HSIA commented on the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) process, using trichloroethylene as an example, at a meeting to review the program conducted by the National Academy of Sciences. HSIA was in a unique position to comment on the IRIS program because toxicological reviews of all three of our mission chemicals – trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene and methylene chloride – were completed in recent years. HSIA identified the selection and interpretation of studies used in the development of toxicity criteria as an area of particular concern and asked that improvements be made in the selection of appropriate studies and the interpretation of study results which drive toxicity criteria.

