



# HSIA

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# SOLVENTS NEWS YOU CAN USE

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## **EPA BANS CONSUMER USE OF METHYLENE CHLORIDE-BASED PAINT STRIPPERS; BUT ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING TO ALLOW CONTINUED COMMERCIAL USE**

On March 27, EPA published the first rule in over 25 years restricting an existing chemical under the Toxic Substances Control Act. The regulation bans sale of methylene chloride -based paint strippers for consumer use effective November 22, 2019. The effective date of the rule is May 28 and downstream notification and a number of other provisions go into effect 90 days later on August 26. .

At the same time, EPA published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) to allow sale of methylene chloride-based paint strippers for commercial use. EPA is seeking comments on labeling, training, and certification for contractors and other commercial users. HSIA will be commenting on the ANPR and encourages formulators to do so as well with a particular focus on whether the products will be available through the restrictive “to the trade” channels. EPA is considering the same.

After having led a years long effort to enhance product labeling of methylene chloride-based paint strippers to clearly warn against improper use, HSIA supports the continued use of methylene chloride-based paint strippers in accordance with label instructions. The new label, approved a year ago by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, makes clear that methylene chloride-based paint strippers should not be used for bathtub refinishing due to inadequate ventilation.

## **EPA ANNOUNCES EXPECTED TIMETABLE FOR RELEASE OF DRAFT RISK ASSESSMENTS**

EPA recently publicly stated that draft risk assessments for the first ten chemicals being screened under TSCA as amended by the Lautenberg Act will be released at the end of the summer. HSIA looks forward to commenting on the draft assessments for trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, methylene chloride and carbon tetrachloride.

## **HSIA SEES INCREASING ACTIVITY AT THE STATE LEVEL IN 2019**

Some states are becoming active on solvent issues as they don't believe that EPA is moving quickly enough to implement the Lautenberg Act. In *Maryland*, legislation was introduced to ban the consumer use of methylene chloride-based paint strippers and to ban two specific uses of trichloroethylene in the State. HSIA testified before House and Senate Committees against the legislation. Both bills received unfavorable reports and are now dead for the season. In *Minnesota*, legislation to ban the manufacturing, processing or distribution in commerce of any product containing trichloroethylene has been introduced. HSIA is working with contacts in the State to oppose the legislation.

