



HSIA

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SOLVENTS NEWS YOU CAN USE

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HSIA FILES SUIT OVER EPA'S METHYLENE CHLORIDE BAN

On May 24, HSIA filed a petition for review of EPA's partial ban of methylene chloride-based paint strippers with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. It is not HSIA's intention to challenge the consumer ban, but rather the (presumably) unintended impact of the rule on sources of supply for commercial users.

The rule was the first rule in over 25 years restricting an existing chemical under the Toxic Substances Control Act. The regulation bans the 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 sought comments on labeling, training, and certification for contractors and other commercial users. HSIA commented on the ANPR and encouraged formulators to comment as well with a particular focus on whether small commercial users, who are not in a position to purchase the products in bulk, will be able to buy them at all.

HSIA-SPONSORED TRICHLOROETHYLENE FETAL HEART DEVELOPMENTAL TOXICITY STUDY PUBLISHED

The long-awaited HSIA study which showed that trichloroethylene does not cause fetal heart defects in rats was published in *Birth Defects Research*. It is available on-line as an open access paper. <http://doi.org/10.1002/bdr2.1531>

ATSDR PUBLISHES TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILES

The Agency for Toxic Substances Registry (ATSDR) released its Toxicological Profile of TCE on July 1. It is disappointing that ATSDR did not take into account the recent HSIA developmental study described above. The study calls into serious question the ATSDR Minimal Risk Level (MRL) based on results of Johnson et al. (2003). The Department of Defense, in deriving its recent Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) for TCE, on the other hand, rejected use of those results. The forthcoming review of the DoD OEL by the National Academy of Sciences may help resolve the questions that have been repeatedly raised about reliance on the Johnson et al. (2003) study.

EPA RELEASES TWO DRAFT CHEMICAL RISK EVALUATIONS UNDER TSCA

On June 26th, EPA released for public and scientific review draft risk evaluations for cyclic aliphatic bromide cluster (HBCD) and 1-4-dioxane. The Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals will meet to conduct a peer review of the draft evaluations at a July 29 – August 2 meeting.

