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SOLVENTS NEWS YOU CAN USE

THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS 2019

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EPA RELEASES ITS DRAFT RISK EVALUATION OF METHYLENE CHLORIDE

In November, EPA released its draft Risk Evaluation of methylene chloride. As you will recall, methylene chloride is one of the first ten chemicals to undergo review under the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act, which amended the Toxic Substances Control Act. In their draft assessment, EPA looked at 73 specific consumer and commercial conditions of use and stated that 6 presented an acceptable risk and 67 posed an unreasonable risk.

On December 3 and 4, EPA's TSCA Scientific Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) met to give guidance to EPA as it completes the Risk Evaluation. In contrast to other recent reviews, the Committee members thought this draft assessment reflected an improvement in EPA's process.

EPA will use the information and comments from the Committee and the public to improve their draft Risk Evaluation.. HSIA will provide extensive comments on the draft Risk Evaluation by the deadline of December 30th and invites companies that have specific exposure data available on their use of methylene chloride to join us in commenting or to comment directly to the docket.

In a related action, effective November 22, 2019, EPA's ban on all consumer uses of methylene chloride-based paint strippers went into effect.

PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES ASSESSMENT OF METHYLENE CHLORIDE-BASED PAINT STRIPPERS FILED IN CALIFORNIA

In July, a consortium of paint stripper formulators led by HSIA filed a preliminary alternatives assessment for methylene chloride-based paint strippers with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). DTSC found that certain areas of data were incomplete and issued a Notice of Deficiency in August. HSIA and the consortium members, working with Grandient, Inc., provided a revised preliminary report and received a Notice of Compliance on December 2. We now have until December 2, 2020 to submit a final alternatives assessment for consideration.

THE MEMBERS AND STAFF OF HSIA WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR. *We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2020.*

