Strategies for Addressing Chemicals in Articles/Products

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Abstract

Governments, businesses and NGOs are developing and implementing strategies to address chemicals in products. Principles of green design, supply chain communication, substitution, precaution, right-to-know and extended producer responsibility are guiding these strategies.

Businesses are confronting increasing demands to know the chemical constituents of products up and down the supply chain, the hazards those chemicals pose, and the availability of safer substitutes. Governments are facilitating changes across the supply chain by: requiring testing of chemicals; identifying chemicals of high concern; requiring labeling in products; and promoting and purchasing safer alternatives. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are demanding greater transparency, accountability and action across the supply chain to catalyze the movement away from chemicals of high concern to chemicals (and products) that are inherently safer.

This paper will identify the overarching principles that are shaping how businesses, NGOs and governments address chemicals in products as well as the specific strategies they are taking to implement these principles.