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CALIFORNIA GREEN CHEMISTRY BILL

The State of California enacted two green chemistry bills AB 1879¹ & SB 509², by giving the authorization to Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) to regulate toxins in consumer products. AB 1879 grants DTSC authority to develop a regulatory framework enabling state scientists, rather than legislators, to make objective decisions regarding identification, prioritization and regulation of chemicals and chemical uses. The two bills aim to accomplish this by, among other things, creating an advisory panel of scientists to guide research in chemical policy, establishing regulation for assessing alternatives, and setting up an internet database of research on toxins.

AB 1879 puts an end to the time-consuming and less effective 'chemical-by-chemical' ban approach of the past. The bill authorizes DTSC to take certain actions following an assessment that range from "no action" to "restrictions or bans." In this sense, the concept of the CA green chemistry regulations are similar to REACH – The chemicals management regulation of European Union.

Both AB 1879 & SB 509 mark an important change in direction from legislated regulation of specific chemicals and products to a science-directed analysis of chemicals of concern. AB 1879 is consistent with the California Governor's Green Chemistry Initiative and ensures that the Initiative will be action-oriented and takes tangible steps to protect the public from dangerous chemicals and replace them with safe alternatives. AB 1879 & SB 509 are engrossed under the California Health and Safety code creating new

sections 25252, 25252.5, 25253, 25254, 25255, and 25257 relating to hazardous materials.



¹- Assembly Bill No. 1879

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/asm/ab_1851-1900/ab_1879_bill_20080911_enrolled.pdf

²- Senate Bill No. 509

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb_0501-0550/sb_509_bill_20080903_enrolled.pdf

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AB 1879 tasks DTSC to:

Identify and prioritize chemicals of concern in consumer products, taking into account the chemical's hazard traits and factors such as the potential effects of exposure by children.

Evaluate chemicals of concern in consumer products, and their possible alternatives, to reduce their hazard to public health and the environment.

Establish a range of regulatory actions, from making information available to the public to restricting or prohibiting the use of the chemical in consumer products.

Conduct a life-cycle evaluation of chemicals of concern to ensure that regulation of a chemical does not negatively affect public health or the environment.

Form a Green Ribbon Science Panel to advise DTSC on scientific and technical matters relating to chemicals use and exposures.

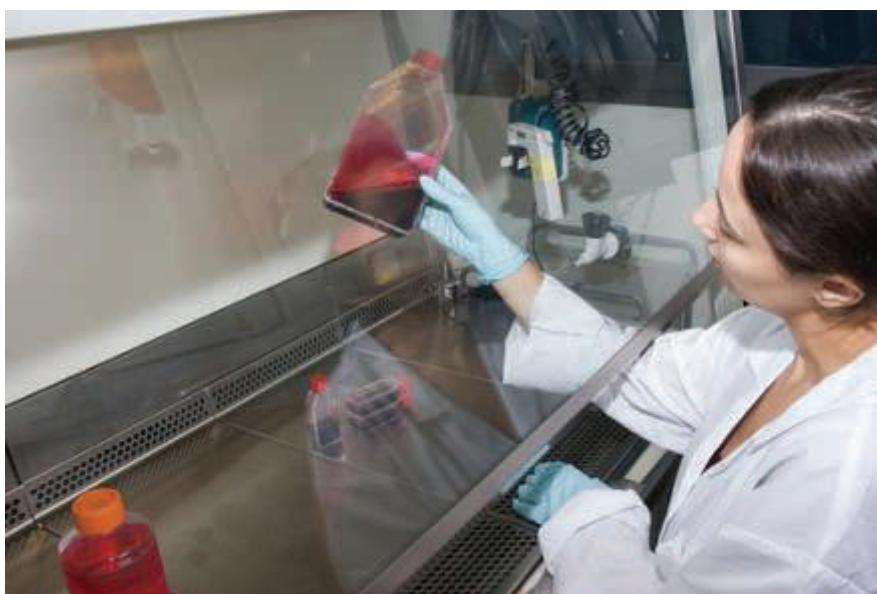
SB 509:

Establish a Toxics Information Clearinghouse for the collection, maintenance, and distribution of specific chemical hazard traits and environmental and toxicological end-point data. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment would be



required, by January 1st, 2011, to evaluate and specify the hazard traits and environmental and toxicological end-points and any other relevant data that are to be included in the clearinghouse. This bill provides that this act would become effective only if Assembly Bill 1879 is enacted on or before January 1st, 2009.

Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services, including information update and consultancy for the California Green Chemistry Bill. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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