

ECHA Releases Report On REACH And CLP Non-Compliance Problems

Last week, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) released a 50-page report on REACH enforcement, specifically on regulatory compliance by downstream users and formulators of mixtures. The report compliance issues from May 2011 until March 2012.

According to the report, "*national enforcement authorities inspected 1,181 enterprises covering 6 900 substances, 4500 mixtures and 4500 safety data sheets (SDSs). The majority of the inspected companies were small or medium-sized.*"

Among the findings, "*67% of the inspected companies were non-compliant with one or more provisions of REACH or CLP. Non-compliance was most commonly related to contraventions of (pre-)registration (REACH, 8%), notification (CLP, 15%), failure to keep information (20%) and having deficient risk management measures (12%).*"

Download a copy of the ECHA REACH compliance report at http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13577/forum_report_ref2_en.pdf.

Statistics & Trends

Tons Of Waste CRTs Apparently Found In Abandoned Arizona Warehouses

Today, the environmental watchdog organization Basel Action Network (BAN) said it has found three warehouses in Arizona containing what it described as "*9 million pounds of abandoned toxic picture tubes from old TVs and computer monitors originally collected by the California state Recycling Program.*" The alleged owner of the waste CRTs, according to BAN, is a company owned by a Chinese national.

A statement released by BAN Executive Director Jim Punkett said, "*Dow Management has bilked California consumers of at least half a million dollars. And what is truly amazing is that we have seen no evidence of the Federal Government, nor the States of Arizona or California conducting any effort to prosecute the perpetrators.*"

The BAN statement also said the organization collaborated with CBS news in conducting the investigation.

Get more information at <http://www.ban.org/>

Taiwan EPA Makes NT\$20 Million Available For Recycling R&D Proposals

On Thursday, the Taiwan Environmental Protection Agency announced it has NT\$20 million available to fund/subsidize recycling waste research and development (R&D) projects, the latest funding round in a 15-year government commitment to commercialize promising recycling innovation.

The Taiwan EPA said it is particularly interested in proposals for removing hazardous materials from otherwise recyclable waste, composite materials processing, energy-saving recycling technologies and processes and several other areas. The funding limit for individual proposed projects is NT\$2 million

The deadline for submitting proposals is October 7.

Get more information at

http://ivy5.epa.gov.tw/enews/fact_Newsdetail.asp?InputTime=1020905104604.

Israel To Subsidize Additional Recycling Of Old Vehicles

Israel's Ministry of Environmental Protection announced on Monday that a new rounding of funding to encourage citizens to recycle their motor vehicles 20 or more years old would begin on November 3. Citizens can receive a NLS 3000 (about US \$837) subsidy from the government for each titled vehicle they scrap.

The government program was launched in 2010 to get older, more heavily polluting vehicles off roads. So far about 27,000 vehicles have been recycled through the financial incentive.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection announcement is posted at

<http://www.sviva.gov.il/InfoServices/NewsAndEvents/MessageDoverAndNews/Pages/2013/september2013/CarScrapping2013.aspx>.

Honolulu Tire Waste-To-Energy Test Burn Deemed Successful

Managing waste tires in Honolulu has been a challenge for government officials. However, according to the Department of Environmental Services of the City and County of Honolulu, several thousand waste tires were successfully converted to energy in a "mass burn." The test was conducted at the HPOWER waste-to-energy facility operated by Covanta Energy.

Under a variance to state law, the HPOWER tire waste-to-energy recovery can continue through March 2014. Since state law bans landfill disposal of tires and energy recovery is the leading means to process waste tires, the variance may be extended.

Get more information in current *Wasteline* newsletter posted at

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs150/1102455632201/archive/1114688541179.html>.

Michigan DEQ Holds Waste Pharmaceuticals Collection Event On Lawn Of Capitol Building

To draw attention to the need for properly disposal of expired and unwanted pharmaceuticals, on Monday the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) held a drug collection event on the lawn of the Capitol building in Lansing. Unlike a few states, Michigan has no law supporting take back of expired and unwanted

pharmaceuticals. Meanwhile, the US Department of Justice is still finalizing national regulations authorized by the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010.

For years, Michigan DEQ has been voicing concern about drugs detected in Michigan waters. A landmark 1999 study by the United States Geological Survey found that 80 percent of streams sampled across the US contained compounds used in common medications.

More information on the event is available at <http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561.7-135--312032-.00.html>.

Business Initiatives

Australian Packaging Covenant Signatory Ranks Increase 15 Percent From A Year Ago

According to the September issue of its newsletter, the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC) had 925 signatory companies as of June 30, an increase 139 signatories or 15 percent from a year earlier.

APC also claimed that "95% of all signatories were compliant in meeting all of their obligations." Those obligations include implementing packaging recycling actions plans, providing audited annual reports, buying products made from recycled material, establish collection and recycling programs for used packaging materials generated on-site, and supporting litter reduction efforts.

The September APC newsletter is available at <http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/>.

AMERIPEN White Paper Discusses Strategy For Increasing US Packaging Recycling

Late last month, the American Institute for Packaging and the Environment (AMERIPEN) released a 78-page white paper on strategies for increasing the amount of packaging being recycled in the United States. The white paper recommends combining three "*legislative approaches*" to boost recycling - unit-based pricing (also called pay-as-you-throw), mandatory recycling and disposal bans.

The white paper also calls for implementing reporting mechanisms that are harmonized among the 50 states, better cooperation between state agencies and local governments, a greater role for industry in policy development, and more public education and outreach, among other actions.

The benefits and limitations of advanced recycling/disposal fees, container deposits and landfill taxes are also evaluated in the white paper.

Download the AMERIPEN white paper at http://www.ameripen.org/wp-content/uploads/Recovery_White_Paper_Final_August_27-2013.pdf.

European Photovoltaic Modules Recycler Calls It Quits

Last week, Belgium-based photovoltaic modules (PVM) recycler PV Cycle assumed collection of end-of-life PVMs previously the responsibility of former recycling organization CERES, which ceased waste PVM take back because of apparent economic reasons. However, a spokesperson for CERES said the organization will remain active in PVM recycling research.

PV Cycle operates a network of 311 waste collection points across the EU. It will honor collection contracts of CERES members through the end of this year.

Under the WEEE Directive, end-of-life PVMs in the EU must be treated as e-waste.

Get more information on the waste PVM take back transition at <http://www.ceres-recycle.org/>.

The Green Perspective

Les Amis De La Terre Calls For Law Against Product Planned Obsolescence

On Tuesday as Apple unveiled a new low cost iPhone model, les Amis de la Terre (the French chapter of Friends of the Earth) issued a communique calling on French legislators to enact a law to encourage the manufacture of more durable products that have 10-year warranties and to more aggressively support product reuse and repair.

In an apparent reference to the new low-cost iPhone, les Amis de la Terre said that "*seeking to providing the lowest price is the engine of planned obsolescence.*" Such products are usually more fragile because of the use of low cost plastic, according to les Amis de la Terre, and there is little incentive for consumers to repair and reuse such devices.

In its communique, les Amis de la Terre failed to mention that Apple also announced a new trade-in program that will encourage refurbishment and resale of some iPhone models.

The Friends of the Earth France communique is posted at <http://www.amisdela Terre.org/Obsolescence-programme-annonce-d.html>.

Copyright, 2013
Raymond Communications, Inc.
P.O. Box 4311
Silver Spring, MD 20914-4311 USA
<http://www.raymond.com>
email: circulation@raymond.com