2024 Global Outlook:

Mid-Year Review of Global Product Compliance

Your questions answered

Regarding lithium-ion batteries in Canada, which standards does Health Canada cite in Table 1 of the Canada Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA)? (slide 27)

Health Canada is concerned about possible burns, fires or explosions from li-ion batteries and lists standards like:

- CSA C22.2 No. 62133-2:20 - Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes - Safety requirements for portable sealed secondary cells, and for batteries made from them, for use in portable applications - Part 2: Lithium systems (Bi-national standard with UL 62133-2, harmonized with IEC 62133-2)
- UL 1642, 6th edition - Lithium Batteries
- UL 2054, 3rd edition - Household and Commercial Batteries
- Or equivalent

You mentioned all of the new PFAS bills and laws in the US states, but not the latest on what's happening in Maine or Minnesota. Can you please address those?

Maine recently published the preliminary text for its PFAS phase-out law, but dozens of different industry associations called on the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to change its plan for implementing a ban on unavoidable PFAS uses to make certain provisions more workable.

The law will prohibit most 'avoidable' PFAS uses by 2032, with a faster phase-out timeline – by 2026 or 2029 – for specific product categories and a longer one for others.

Minnesota announced plans to release proposals on PFAS reporting and fees for public consultation early next year.

The law will require businesses to disclose most PFAS uses by 1 January 2026 and ban all non-essential applications by 2032.

Here are some links to relevant Chemical Watch News & Insight articles:

- Maine regulators release preliminary vision for PFAS phase-out rule
- Industry seeks changes to Maine's draft PFAS rule
- Minnesota draft rules on PFAS reporting, fees expected early next year

With regards to Saudi Arabia if there is a GSO Technical Regulation which requires the GCTS mark & QR code, would that be sufficient? Or is there a need to add the new KSA logo as well?

My reading of the translation of the new Saudi Product Safety System, as proposed to the WTO, indicates that products must bear the SASO mark.

A third-party lab, such as SGS, Intertek, Bureau Veritas, TUV SUD, should be able to apply the SASO mark for you, often based on compliance with international regulations and standards, such as those of the CEN and ISO.

You can **check out the Regulation here**.

Regarding the UN Plastics Treaty, will list 2 concern all organophosphorous flame retardants or only some of them? And what does "avoid or minimize" exactly mean? Which one will prevail?

The UN's 2023 Technical Report on Chemicals in Plastics lists several organophosphorous flame retardants (OPFRs), such as:

- tris (2-chloroethyl)phosphate (TCEP);
- tris(1,3-dichloroisopropyl)phosphate (TDCPP);
- tris(2-chloroisopropyl) phosphate (TCPP);
- tris(2-butoxyethyl) phosphate (TBOEP); and
- triphenyl phosphate (TPhP).

It is hard to say whether that will be the full extent of the OPFRs they opt to restrict or prohibit; however, our journalists in Chemical Watch News & Insight will be reporting on this as they progress. Here is a link to an article from the team on Countries propose list of chemicals to ban under the plastics treaty.

"Avoid or minimize" has not been defined, unfortunately, but we suspect it means not to use these chemicals whenever possible; and when they are necessary, to use the smallest possible amount of them in your products.