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Toxic Chemicals Update

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Toxic Chemicals
Section
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Regulations Update . . . *You should be aware of the following proposed Regulations and Guidelines.*

Registration of Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products on Federal Lands Regulations*

These regulations require federal departments to create a registry of underground and above-ground tanks with a capacity of greater than 4000L. An annual report will be required, which will include an accounting of how many tanks do and do not comply with CEPA Section 53 technical guidelines on Underground Storage Tanks and Aboveground Storage Tanks. The regulations appeared in *Canada Gazette* Part II on January 8, 1997. **Contact: Anne MacKinnon (902) 426-5104. ■**

Technical Guidelines for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems Containing Petroleum Products*

These technical guidelines were published in *Canada Gazette* Part I on August 17, 1996. The guidelines incorporate the CCME "Environmental Code of Practice for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems Containing Petroleum Products". The code provides recommendations on the design, construction, operation, maintenance and removal of aboveground tanks. The

Technical Guidelines modify the Code for use by federal facilities and provide a timetable for upgrading existing storage tanks. The Regulations require that compliance with the Technical Guidelines be evaluated annually. Copies of the Guidelines are available from Environmental Protection Service Publications at (819) 953-5750. **Contact: Anne MacKinnon (902) 426-5104. ■**

Diesel Fuel Regulations

The proposed regulations were published in *Canada Gazette* Part I on September 28, 1996. These regulations set the maximum concentration of sulphur in diesel fuel at 0.05% by weight, for use in light-duty vehicles, light-duty trucks and heavy-duty vehicles. Reporting requirements for manufacturers and importers include a quarterly report of sulphur concentration in diesel fuel and quantities of fuel produced/imported and sold. These regulations come into force on October 1, 1997. **Contact: Micheline Riou (902) 426-9940. ■**

PCB Waste Export Regulations, 1996*

An Interim Order under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* banning

the export of Canadian PCBs to the United States was put in place November 20, 1995, following a U.S. decision to open its borders to Canadian PCB wastes after 15 years of closure. Following further changes in U.S. policy regarding PCB waste imports, the Canadian government was satisfied that PCB waste exported from Canada to U.S. destruction facilities would be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner, compatible with Canadian regulations.

On September 26, 1996, Environment Minister Sergio Marchi and Health Minister David Dingwall announced that the Canada/United States border will soon be open to the export of Canadian PCB wastes. The wastes will only be exported for thermal or chemical destruction under *U.S. Environmental Protection Act* procedures.

A new Canadian regulation setting out the criteria for PCB waste exports was published in *Canada Gazette* Part I on October 5, 1996 and will replace the *Regulations Amending the PCB Waste Export Regulations* (Interim Order). In February 1997, the regulation is scheduled to be published in *Canada Gazette* Part II and then will be in force, opening the border to PCB waste

* **Source: COMPROUPDATE, Fall 1996, Volume 3/ Number 1, EPB - Federal Programs Division, Ontario Region.**

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Environment Canada
Atlantic Region

Environnement Canada
Région de l'Atlantique

exports. **Contact: Rita Mroz (902) 426-9405. ■**

A New CEPA

On December 10, 1996 a Bill was introduced to Parliament, by Environment Minister Sergio Marchi, which amends the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). The Bill will modernize and strengthen CEPA by making pollution prevention the national goal; improving the control of toxics, pollutants and waste; improving enforcement of new and existing regulations; encouraging greater citizen participation; and working in partnerships.

Additional information on the Bill is available on Environment Canada's Web Site (<http://www.ec.gc.ca>). Depending on interest, a briefing session may be sponsored by Environment Canada which will provide an overview of the significant thrusts of the amended legislation. To express an interest contact Bill Ernst at 902-426-5048. ■

Toxic Substances Management Policy

The Government of Canada's Toxic Substances Management Policy, which was released in June 1995, outlines a framework for the management of toxic substances in Canada. It sets the direction for all federal government departments when making decisions about managing toxic substances. The policy has two main objectives:

- virtual elimination from the environment of toxic substances that are predominantly anthropogenic (i.e. man-made), persistent and bioaccumulative (Track 1); and
- life-cycle management of other toxic substances and substances of concern to prevent or minimize their release to the environment (Track 2).

There are specific criteria presented in the policy by which to judge the "Track"

that any individual substance should take.

The general principles of:

- precautionary approval;
- pollution prevention;
- consistency between departments;
- public participation, openness and transparency in decision making;
- consideration of all available instruments in developing management strategies; and
- consideration of socio-economic factors

will be employed in implementing the policy. The policy will be applied in concert with other federal government policies and initiatives but will be most observable in the application of the New Substances Notification Regulations and the Priority Substances Assessment Program under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

Contact: Bill Ernst (902) 426-5048. ■

Developing a Hazardous Materials Minimization Program*

There are a number of important steps that need to be followed to reach the goal of zero discharge/virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances (PTSs) used or generated in your operations:

1. Identify and inventory products containing hazardous materials that are used at your facility.
2. Identify specific processes that use these hazardous materials and/or generate hazardous waste.
3. Identify and inventory emissions, effluents and hazardous waste streams at your facility.
4. Set priorities for action on inputs and waste streams based on volume, toxicity, persistence, and bioaccumulation of PTSs in those streams. Pay particular attention to processes which transform chemicals into new chemicals or by-products.
5. Identify applications in which hazardous materials can be substituted with alternative products containing less hazardous materials.

Contact: Micheline Riou (902) 426-9940. ■

Toxic Chemicals Section - Who Are We?

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Note: You can also reach us by fax at (902) 426-3897. Be sure to visit Environment Canada's Green Lane site on the world wide web - (<http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca>) ■



Questions

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