

Veille Internet sur les phtalates du 18/01/2012 au 30/01/2012

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santelog.com | <p>- L'OBÉSITÉ infantile liée aux PHTALATES présents dans les produits de soin</p> | <p>p2-3</p> |
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ARTICLES EN ANGLAIS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europeanplasticsnews.com | <p>- Policy makers ignore the science of plasticisers</p> <p><i>Selon l'industrie du plastique, les scientifiques qui travaillent pour l'industrie européenne des plastifiants ont du mal à convaincre les responsables politiques et les régulateurs que les plastifiants modernes sont sans danger. La présidente de l'ECPI (European Council for Plasticisers and Intermediates) s'inquiète de la façon dont certains décideurs considèrent les substances utilisées dans les plastifiants en faisant référence au projet de loi proposé en 2011 par Yvan Lachaud. Le projet est en instance mais l'industrie subit des pressions pour remplacer certains plastifiants dont la suppression serait coûteuse.</i></p> | <p>p4-5</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemicalwatch.com | <p>- Study indicates endocrine disruptors may contribute to liver disease</p> <p><i>Des scientifiques grecs ont conclu que les substances qui perturbent le système endocrinien (BPA, dioxines, phtalates etc.) ont un effet toxique sur le foie et altèrent la résistance à l'insuline, ce qui pourrait mener au développement de la stéatose hépatique non alcoolique chez l'humain.</i></p> | <p>p6</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chron.com | <p>- 25,000 unsafe toys seized at Port of Houston</p> <p><i>(USA) Des inspecteurs de la répression des fraudes ont saisi des jouets jugés dangereux pour les enfants dans le Port de Houston. 25000 jouets ont ainsi été confisqués entre 2010 et 2011. Les jouets contenaient notamment du plomb et des phtalates et provenaient majoritairement de Chine.</i></p> | <p>p7-8</p> |



L'OBÉSITÉ infantile liée aux PHTALATES présents dans les produits de soin

Actualité publiée hier

Des chercheurs du Centre de la santé environnementale des enfants du Mount Sinai Medical Center (New York) viennent d'identifier une association entre l'exposition aux phtalates et l'obésité chez les jeunes enfants. Cette étude, la première à examiner la relation entre l'exposition aux phtalates et l'obésité infantile, financée par le National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the National Cancer Institute, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency est publiée dans l'édition en ligne du 4 janvier de la revue Environmental Research. 97% des petits newyorkais testés présentaient des phtalates dans leurs urines...

Les phtalates, rappellent les auteurs, sont des perturbateurs endocriniens qui peuvent imiter certaines fonctions des hormones naturelles du corps. Ils sont couramment utilisés dans les revêtements de sol et muraux en plastique, certains matériaux transformation des aliments, [appareils médicaux](#), et ...produits de soins personnels. Alors que la mauvaise alimentation et l'inactivité physique sont des facteurs de base de risque connus de l'obésité, un nombre croissant de recherches suggère que les produits chimiques présents dans l'environnement – dont les phtalates - pourraient jouer un rôle dans la croissance des taux d'obésité infantile.

Ces chercheurs newyorkais ont mesuré les concentrations de phtalates dans les urines de 387 enfants noirs et hispaniques de New York, et ont relevé l'IMC, la taille et le tour de taille de ces enfants un an plus tard. Les tests d'urine révèlent que plus de 97% des petits participants avaient été exposés à des phtalates présents habituellement dans les produits de soins d'hygiène tels que les parfums, lotions et autres produits cosmétiques ou encore [médicaments ou suppléments nutritionnels](#). Les phtalates identifiés comprenaient le phtalate de monoéthylique (MEP) et d'autres phtalates de faible poids moléculaire.



L'équipe a également trouvé une association entre les concentrations de ces phtalates et l'IMC et le tour de taille chez les enfants en surpoids. Par exemple, l'IMC chez les filles en surpoids avec la plus grande exposition au MEP s'avère 10% plus élevé que chez celles qui ont subi l'exposition la plus faible au MEP.

«La recherche montre que l'exposition à ces produits chimiques au quotidien peut altérer le développement neurologique dans l'enfance, mais c'est la première preuve scientifique de sa contribution à l'obésité infantile», commente l'auteur de l'étude, le Pr. Susan Teitelbaum, professeur agrégé au Département de médecine préventive de la Mount Sinai School of Medicine. «Cette étude souligne aussi l'importance de réduire l'exposition à ces produits chimiques autant que cela est

possible." Ce type d'étude a d'autant plus d'impact aux Etats-Unis, que le taux d'obésité infantile atteint près de 40% chez les enfants âgés de 6 à 11 ans (alors qu'en France, 3,5 % des enfants présentent une obésité et 14,5 % un surpoids).

L'équipe de chercheurs va poursuivre ses recherches pour mieux évaluer encore l'impact de ces produits chimiques sur l'obésité infantile.

Source: Environmental Research doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2011.12.006, [Associations between phthalate metabolite urinary concentrations and body size measures in New York City children](#)

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Policy makers ignore the science of plasticisers

By John Osbourne

Posted 17 January 2012



Science is usually considered a more precise method for expressing technical information than words. The problem is that although science can use mathematics to convey concepts such as a chemical formula that cannot be expressed with words alone, presenting science to some regulators is proving challenging.

It appears that scientists, particularly those working in the European plasticisers industry, are still struggling to convince policy makers and regulators that modern plasticisers are safe. Even precise statements that are available 24/7 on respected industry websites are failing to get through to some people involved in regulation.

Maggie Saykali, manager at the European Council for Plasticisers and Intermediates (ECPI), explained at the conference what the trade body is currently doing, particularly in the area of safety. This is arguably the

most controversial issue affecting the European plasticisers business.

Saykali said that despite presenting clear science, the ECPI was most concerned about how some policy makers regard substances used in plasticisers. In particular, she referred to a bill proposed last year by Yvan Lachaud, a French Senator who wants to ban the use of phthalates, parabens and alkylphenols.

According to a statement issued by the ECPI in May 2011, against all expectations and against the advice of the French government, the bill passed its first reading.

The bill has not progressed any further in the last few months. But the ECPI noted it might still be placed on the Senate's agenda before the end of February, when the current legislative period will finish.

Another senator, Gilbert Barbier, defended the findings of a report he helped compile when he addressed the French senate's social affairs committee on 30 November. Any ban should only concern low molecular weight phthalates (DEHP, DBP, BBP, DIBP) in medical applications for use on infants and pregnant women, he said.

The ECPI urged that any changes to the legislation applying to phthalates should be based on the current consensus of national and European regulation. It pointed out that the Reach regulations cover the use of phthalates.

"In trying to replace the existing EU framework relevant to these complex issues", said the ECPI, "this [French] bill raises more problems than it provides solutions. It is scientifically unjustified and

unworkable in practice. Thus, a general ban of these substances and particularly of phthalates is inappropriate and unsuitable."

Helen Weeks, a director of IHS, said "phthalate is becoming a dirty word" and there is "pressure to manufacture phthalate-free products".

Weeks said there are many pressures on the European plasticisers industry and that they are increasing. The main ones are: concerns about consumer product safety; sustainability; the views of brand owners and retailers; and the views of opinion formers. The latter group includes NGOs and politicians.

As a result of these pressures, European manufacturers of plasticisers are faced with a market in which DEHP will be largely phased out by 2015, and in which DINP and DPHP are used interchangeably.

Other speakers looked at less contentious issues. These included human biomonitoring and the migration of plasticisers.

The industry is faced with pressure to phase out ingredients that would be expensive or difficult to replace. The skills of many experts, including chemists, sales personnel and marketing managers, will need to be harnessed to find acceptable alternatives. Even if they can do that they still have to find ways of blowing away the clouds of misconception currently hanging over the industry.

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Study indicates endocrine disruptors may contribute to liver disease

26-Jan-2012

Greek scientists have concluded that endocrine disrupting chemicals may play a significant role in contributing to the development of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) by altering insulin resistance in humans.

The researchers reviewed currently available literature on the effects of known endocrine disrupting chemicals including dioxins, bisphenol A (BPA), phthalates and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) to identify pathways that might contribute to the development of NAFLD in humans. They identified that certain chemicals may contribute to the disease via direct toxic effects on the liver as well as increasing insulin resistance which can lead indirectly to the disease. The authors therefore conclude that such chemicals may play a significant role in increasing the prevalence of NAFLD worldwide, but highlight that further studies are needed to confirm this.

The research is published in the journal *Current Molecular Medicine*.

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25,000 unsafe toys seized at Port of Houston

By Yang Wang, By Yang Wang

Published 09:01 p.m., Monday, January 23, 2012



A device tests the lead content in a product that was found to be deficient and then seized at the Port of Houston earlier this month. Photo: Eric Kayne / ©2011 Eric Kayne

Consumer safety inspectors at the Port of Houston have seized more toys deemed unsafe for children - largely because of choking hazards and lead paint - than almost any other consumer product imported to the United States, second only to fireworks.

The toys, 25,000 of them, are among 117,000 foreign products like mattresses, electronic devices, lighters, bike helmets and all-terrain vehicles confiscated in Houston by the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) from 2010 through 2011.

Even now, dozens of boxes of toy bears imported from China are parked at an inspection station on North Wayside Road.

"If the bear's nose and eyes can be easily pulled off, those small parts could choke children," said [David McCabe](#), the compliance investigator at the port as he pulled parts from a toy bear to test them in a cylinder. "Anything that fits in the cylinder is too risky for children to play with."

Nationwide, 19 investigators assigned to the busiest ports have confiscated, among other things, toy guns, cars, trucks, helicopters and dolls containing lead paint, lead content, phthalates and small parts deemed dangerous. Phthalates are chemicals used in plastics and other products.

"In response to the lead in paint recalls in 2007, [CPSC](#) started to place investigators at key ports of entry full time," said [Carol Cave](#), the director of the [Office of Import Surveillance and Inspection](#).

Faced with a swell of concern and 45 million children's toys and products recalled about five years ago, Congress in 2008 boosted the budget of the CPSC and required it to set up a website where consumers can both register complaints and read reports posted by others.

"We think the products being turned back stopped people from shipping stuff here in the first place. Now they're not sure if they are able to get in," said [Nancy Cowles](#), executive director of Chicago-based Kids in Danger, a consumer advocacy group. "It's a very effective program to keep unsafe toys from our children."

Lead is believed to cause both brain damage and behavioral problems in children. A number of studies have linked phthalates to early puberty in girls, genital defects and reduced testosterone production in boys.

In 2010, there were 17 toy-related deaths and 181,500 injuries among children of 15 or younger, according a CPSC report. Eleven of the deaths were from asphyxiation or choking.

Most seized products come from China, although collaboration with the Chinese government has reduced the number of recalls, officials said. CPSC established an office in Beijing last year to make it easier to communicate with Chinese officials about safety problems, like toxic metals in toys.

Currently, 45 percent of imported consumer products and 90 percent of toys sold in the United States come from China and Hong Kong.

Products from South America like jewelry also are stopped for containing lead or cadmium.

The Port of Houston imports more foreign waterborne tonnage than any other U.S. port. McCabe is responsible for inspecting 150 shipments a year, or one every other day.

With the ongoing Panama Canal expansion project, the number of containers handled by the Port of Houston through the canal could grow by 15 percent in the next few years, according to the [Houston Port Authority](#).

Determining whether a foreign shipment should be destroyed is a stringent process.

CPSC investigators first test the product with tools in the field and send product samples to labs in Maryland.

"The lab will use a device that mimics a child's strength to try to pull the eyes and noses from the bear, which can produce a precise result," said McCabe.

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