



Flame retardants in consumer products analyzed to reduce the risks from exposure to chemicals



2013–2014 Project

Enhancing Trilateral Understanding of Chemicals in Products in North America

This project advances a North American approach to identify the sources, presence, quantification, uses and associated risks from emerging flame retardants in products, to assist in developing strategies to manage those chemicals. The project evaluates the availability of information on emerging flame retardants of interest and provides information on the use of flame retardants in the North American polyurethane foam industry, particularly the use of such foam in upholstered furniture.

Key Accomplishments

- Conducted a supply-chain analysis of 46 flame retardants of trilateral interest used in manufactured items in the North American market, and identified potential sources and uses of sixteen emerging flame retardants on the North American market
- Conducted product testing on 132 pieces of residential upholstered furniture purchased in Canada, Mexico and the United States and collected trend information on the presence of the 16 flame retardants, which may support risk management decisions for those substances.

Products

- Two summary reports on enhancing trilateral understanding of flame retardants and their use in manufactured items:
 - Phase I: *Supply Chain Analysis of Select Flame Retardants Contained in Manufactured Items Used in Indoor Environments*
 - Phase II: *Analysis of Select Flame Retardants Contained in Office and Household Furniture*

Partners, Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

Partners include the Sound Management of Chemicals Working Group and regulators within the risk assessment and risk management communities in the three countries. Stakeholders and beneficiaries include industry associations, universities and research centers, nongovernmental organizations, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat.

About the CEC

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) was established by the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States through the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, the environmental side agreement to NAFTA. An intergovernmental organization, the CEC is composed of a Council of cabinet-level environmental officials from the three countries, a Joint Public Advisory Committee and a Secretariat that provides operational support for cooperative work between the three countries. The organization brings together citizens and experts from governments, nongovernmental organizations, scientists, researchers and businesses to seek solutions to protect North America's shared environment while supporting sustainable economic development.

