

What's new with PCB's and PFOA's

PCB's

CPMA, NAPIM and other business and trade associations have been working over the last two years with Washington state regulators and environmental groups on water quality issues related to PCB contaminants. Washington state regulators and environmental groups believe that PCB containing pigments in printed matter either through recycling or landfilling are, in large part, responsible for the contamination. CPMA, NAPIM et al have disputed this assertion. At issue here is Washington state's low part per quadrillion (PPQ) PCB limit. On April 16, 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency (epa.gov) announced their final rule to withdraw the federal water quality standards for certain human health criteria (HHC) in Washington (40 CFR 131.45) The Washington State HHC for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) was part of the EPA withdrawal action.

PFOA's

EPA continues its work on a regulatory determination for polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFOA's) in drinking water under its Safe Drinking Water Act authority. EPA issued a proposal for comment (60 day comment period) on February 22, 2020. NAPIM is participating in a Chamber of Commerce group providing comment on the proposal. This group is encouraging EPA to recognize the necessity of certain PFOA's and to utilize a risk-based approach that identifies specific PFOA's chemistries and substances rather than an overall, categorical action.

Titanium Dioxide Reclassification

On February 18, 2020 the European Union published a delegated regulation classifying titanium dioxide (TiO₂) as a category 2 suspected carcinogen by inhalation¹. This classification is applicable to facilities handling/processing or selling dry, powder titanium dioxide where there is a potential for evolution of TiO₂ particulates. Additional information is available on the NAPIM member's website (<https://napimtech.org/Regulatory/TiO2>).

Bureau of Labor Statistics – Ink Industry Data

The US Census – Bureau of Labor Statistics has recently reported 2018 data for NAICS code 32591 – Printing Ink Manufacturing. The ink industry continues to show a significant decline in the number of work-related injuries. Additional information is available on the NAPIM member's website (<https://napimtech.org/Regulatory/BLS>).

ASTM Revitalized

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) administers critical test methods for printing inks and printing ink components. With the 2020 addition of two new chairpersons (David Biro/Sun Chemical and Karen Schroeder/Kustom Group) and the formation of a NAPIM committee the D01.56 – Printing Inks and D01.37 – Printing Ink Vehicles test methods are being reviewed and updated. If you are interested in participating on this committee please contact George Fuchs (gfuchs@napim.org)