

# EPA's Chemicals Management Program

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# IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF CHEMICALS

- TSCA Reform
  - Administration Principles
  - Legislative Activities
- Enhancing Existing Chemicals Program under TSCA
  - Risk Assessment and Management
  - Increasing Access to Chemical Data
  - Promoting the design and use of Safer Chemicals



# TOXICS SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT

- Enacted in 1976, TSCA set a national program to:
  - Gather information on new and existing chemical substances and mixtures
  - Require testing of chemicals and mixtures
  - Screen and control unreasonable risks of new and existing chemicals and mixtures
  - Coordinate with other Federal agencies
- Only major environmental statute not reauthorized.
- No mandatory program to determine the safety of existing chemicals.
- Difficult legal and procedural hurdles to limit or ban chemicals
- Procedural hurdles to request the generation and submission of health and environmental effects data.
- Confidential Business Information (CBI) claims limit access to information by the public and other governments.

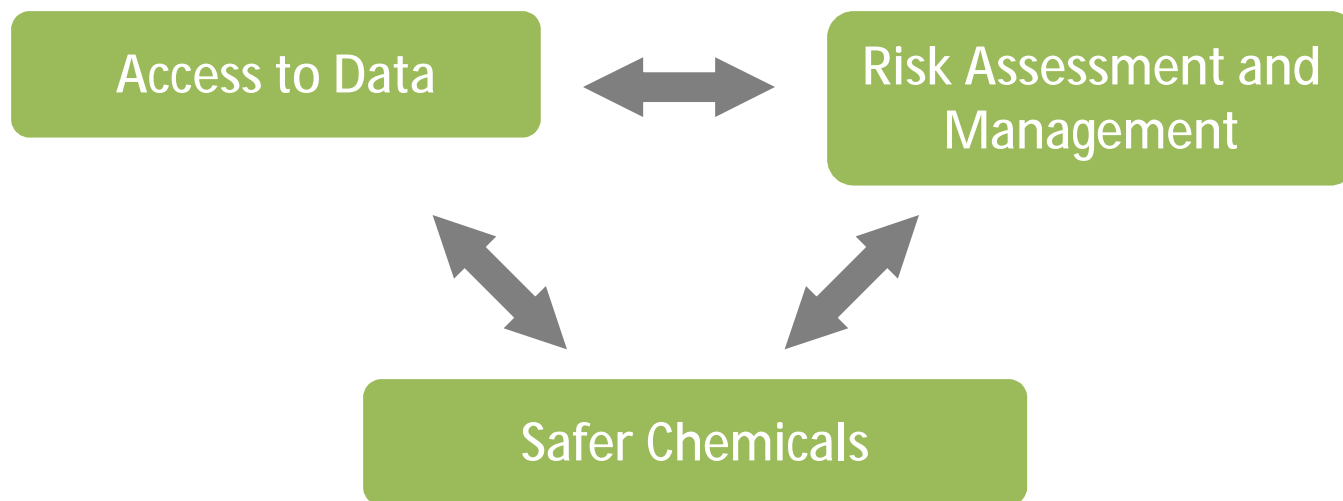


# TSCA REFORM

- Fall 2009, Administration released principles to help inform discussion on TSCA reform.
  - Chemicals should be reviewed against safety standards that are based on sound science and reflect risk-based criteria protective of human health and the environment.
  - Manufacturers should provide EPA with the necessary information to conclude that new and existing chemicals are safe and do not endanger public health or the environment.
  - Management decisions should take into account sensitive subpopulations, cost, availability of substitutes and other relevant considerations.
  - Manufacturers and EPA should assess and act on priority chemicals, both existing and new, in a timely manner.
  - Green chemistry should be encouraged and provisions assuring transparency and public access to information should be strengthened.
  - EPA should be given a sustained source of funding for implementation.
- Continued interest and support for TSCA reform in Congress and among stakeholders.
  - May 22, 2013 — Sen. Lautenberg, Sen. David Vitter (LA), and others introduce the bipartisan “Chemical Safety Improvement Act”.

# CHEMICALS PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- In 2012, EPA developed and initiated a multi-pronged approach for existing chemicals program strategy:





# RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT

- Criteria for selecting chemicals for risk assessment
  - In September 2011, EPA sought stakeholder input on the criteria for identifying such chemicals for the risk assessment/risk reduction component of EPA's work plan
  - Factors used:
    - Potentially of concern to children's health (reproductive or developmental effects)
    - Neurotoxic effects
    - Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic (PBT)
    - Probable or known carcinogens
    - Used in products to which children might be exposed
    - Detected in biomonitoring



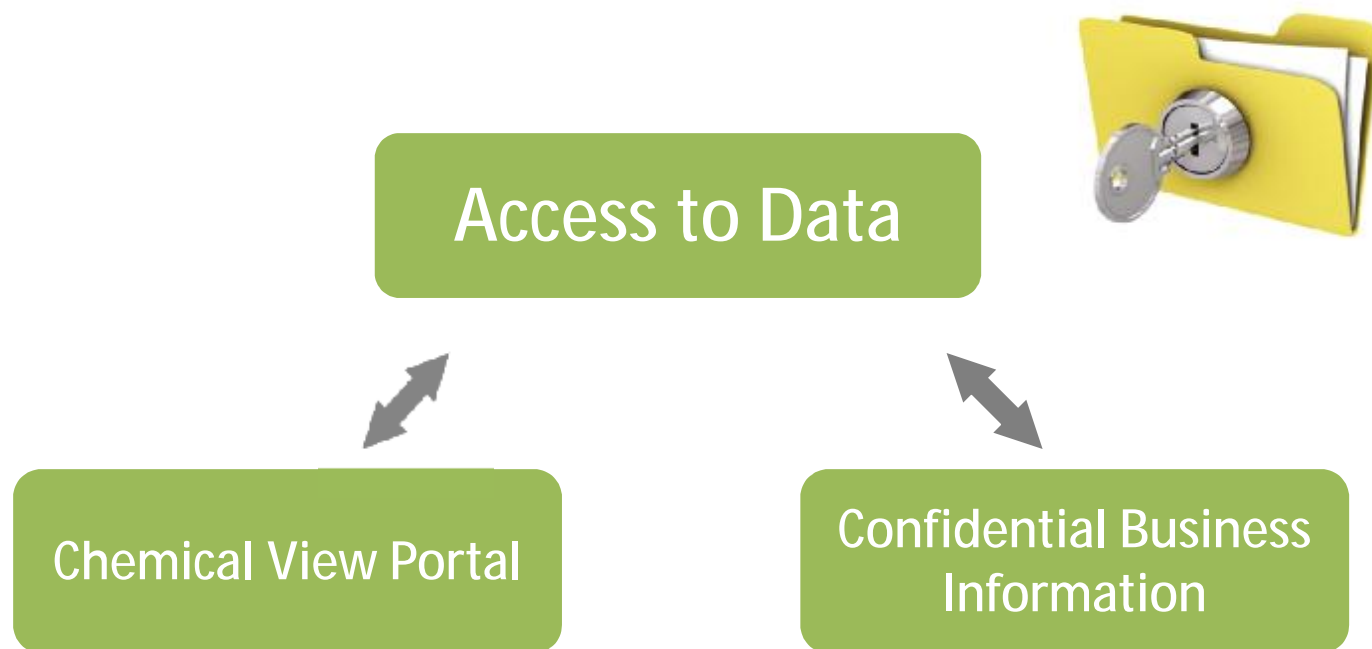


# RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT

- In March 2012, EPA identified a Work Plan of 83 chemicals for review and risk assessment.
  - EPA identified an initial set of 7 for risk assessment in 2012
  - In June 2012, EPA identified 18 chemicals for risk assessment in 2013 and 2014
  - In March 2013, EPA announced the chemicals identified for assessment in 2013, including 20 flame retardant chemicals
- If an assessment indicates potential concerns, EPA will evaluate and pursue appropriate risk management efforts. If negligible risks, EPA will conclude its work on the chemical.
- EPA will continue to conduct risk assessments on the remaining Work Plan chemicals and add additional chemicals to the Work Plan if warranted.

# INCREASING PUBLIC ACCESS TO DATA

- Since 2009, EPA has taken a range of significant steps to increase the public's access to information and reduce CBI claims, and will continue efforts to improve the accessibility and usability of chemical data







# ACCESSING CHEMICAL DATA

- Continue efforts to improve the accessibility and usability of chemical data, including hazard and exposure information by:
  - Reducing unchallenged CBI claims
  - Developing tools and approaches for improving the accessibility and usefulness of data
    - Developing a Chemical View Portal to provide enhanced access and use of EPA's chemical information.
    - Supporting development of a public-facing “Dashboard” that will provide computational capabilities to assist users in researching and evaluating various TSCA chemicals.

# PROMOTING SAFER CHEMICALS

- EPA is promoting the design and use of safer chemicals through a number of key programs and activities.



# DESIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (DfE)



- Alternatives Assessment Program
  - Identify and evaluate functional alternatives
  - Include diverse stakeholders who provide input and feedback on the identification and evaluation of the alternatives
  - Consider potential trade-offs, green chemistry needs
    - Final Reports: NPE report (May 2012); HBCD report (*Expected Fall 2013*)
    - Draft Reports: BPA in Thermal Paper (July 2012); DecaBDE (July 2012); Phthalates (*Expected 2014*)
- Safer Product Labeling Program
  - Promotes design of safer consumer, industrial and institutional chemical-based products
  - Over 2,500 DfE-labeled cleaning and other products meet stringent human and environmental health criteria to ensure products are safer, perform well and contain the safest possible ingredients
  - Posted Safer Chemical Ingredients List (SCIL) for use in DfE-labeled products in September 2012



To learn more about TSCA and EPA's  
Chemical Management Program:

<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/>

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