

Safer Consumer Products Regulation: Green Chemistry Update
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Presenter biography

Meredith Williams joined the Department of Toxic Substances Control in December 2013 shortly after the adoption of California's Safer Consumer Products regulations. In her oversight of implementation of these groundbreaking regulations, she brings a commitment to robust decision making processes, stakeholder engagement, and strong science. She has expertise in research and development, product management, and operations for Fortune 500 technology, consumer product, and chemical companies including Applied Materials and 3M. After nearly 20 years of corporate work she joined the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), a nationally-recognized center in support of aquatic resource management. Among other positions, she served as SFEI's interim Executive Director in 2013. Dr. Williams strives for collaborative solutions to complex problems and has a track record of championing interdisciplinary approaches to the application of science to policy and decision making. She holds B.S. from Yale University and a Ph.D. in physics from North Carolina State University.

Presentation abstract

The Safer Consumer Products program went into effect one year ago. This program represents a paradigm shift in chemicals safety regulation. Its aim is to reduce toxic chemicals in products consumers buy and use. It identifies specific products containing potentially harmful chemicals and asks manufacturers to answer two questions: Is this chemical necessary? Is there a safer alternative? These regulations establish a four step process to identify combinations of chemicals in products which warrant consideration, analyze possible safer alternatives, and take appropriate regulatory steps to protect public health and the environment. The program relies on information about chemical ingredients and chemical safety in order to identify and prioritize products for consideration. Effective communications to consumers and product users is paramount to the effectiveness of these new regulations. Dr. Williams will present an overview of this regulatory framework and will discuss implementation progress to date and the importance of chemical safety communications for this work.