

SPARKLE

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Legislative Update : New Bills in USA

(1) **Maine of USA "An Act To Regulate the Use of Batteries Containing Mercury" Approved**

The Governor of Maine has signed a bill into law that would make it illegal to sell or distribute mercury-added button cell batteries in Maine after June 30, 2011. It also directs the Department of Environmental Protection to report, by January 15, 2009, on the state of the technology of mercury-free button cell batteries. The main content of the bill is as follows:

After June 30, 2011, a person may not sell or offer to sell or distribute for promotional purposes a mercury-added button cell battery for consumer use or a product for consumer use that contains a mercury-added button cell battery.

"Mercury-added button cell battery" means a button cell battery to which the manufacturer intentionally introduces mercury.

(2) **New York State proposes two bills related to toy products**

The New York State of USA has proposed 2 bills related to toy products. The first one is an act in relation to the noise level of toys and the second one is pertaining to the prohibition of sale of certain articles containing phthalates

An Act in relation to the Noise Level of Toys

Once the act is effective, toys offered for sale in the state of New York shall not be designed to create a noise level greater than 85dB. The bill neither defines any categories of soundproducing toys (e.g. handheld, tabletop, floor, Close-to-the-ear, etc. as defined in ASTM F963-03) nor specifies the details of application of the requirement.

An Act in relation to articles containing phthalates

According to the bill, toys or other articles, intended for use by children (aged 3 and younger), contain any measurable amount of phthalates shall not be sold in New York State.

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(3) The restrictions of Brominated Flame Retardants

The State of Connecticut proposes a bill to restrict the use of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE). Here's the highlight of the new requirement:

1. By January 1, 2007, the manufacture or sale of product containing penta-BDE or octa-BDE is prohibited;
2. By January 1, 2010, the manufacture or sale of "Electronic Products" or "Household Textile" containing Commercial deca-BDE is prohibited. A document of chemical safety data shall be submitted to the authority for any alternative flame retardant is used for substitution;

For purposes of this bill, the following definitions apply:

"Commercial deca-BDE" means:

Deca-BDE contains no single associated PBDE impurity exceeds 1% by mass and all such impurities do not exceed 4% by mass of the mixture, provided that no impurities are intentionally added;

"Electronic Products" means:

The plastic housing that encloses the components of electronic products, including but not limited to televisions, facsimile machine, printer or computers;

"Household textiles" means:

Mattresses, mattress pads, comforters, drapes or upholstered furniture intended for indoor use in a residence.

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