

Dear Interested Parties,

Thank you for your interest and involvement in the implementation of RCW 70.365, the new law that we're calling [Safer Products for Washington](#).

Ecology and Health hosted a webinar on August 29th to explain the law and how we are working to implement the requirements. On the Safer Products for Washington [stakeholder site](#), you can review the presentation slides, see the list of attendees of the last webinar, read through the questions and answers, and see a list of all of the entities engaged in these conversations.

We know there is a lot of interest in which chemical-product combinations we will prioritize under this new law. We want to be transparent and open about our process.

Right now, we are gathering information. We'd like to share some of the chemical-product categories we're currently researching. The goal of sharing this information is to give you a sense of where we're headed, and to ask for your help.

We want this process to be based on the best available science and the most complete information. We need your help to ensure that happens. We invite you to share feedback, data, or other information to help us in this effort. Please email SaferProductsWA@ecy.wa.gov to share information, ask questions, or set up a meeting with us.

Which priority chemical classes are included?

At this stage, we are working with the Washington State Department of Health (Health) to research products that use, or may be a significant source of the five priority chemical classes identified in the law:

- Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
- Phthalates.
- Organohalogen flame retardants and flame retardants identified in under RCW [70.240](#)
- Phenolic compounds: alkylphenol ethoxylates and bisphenols.
- Polychlorinated biphenyls.

How have Ecology and Health identified chemical-product combinations?

We narrowed our focus to products that use and may be potential sources of human and environmental exposure to the priority chemicals designated in the law. We consulted reports from Health, Ecology reports and research from Ecology's product testing program, chemical-product reports from other jurisdictions, and peer-reviewed literature. Now we are in the process of researching whether these products meet the priority criteria set in the law.

What preliminary chemical-product combinations are Ecology and Health researching?

- PFAS in carpet and aftermarket carpet treatments.
- Phthalates in vinyl flooring and cosmetic fragrances.
- Phenolic compounds in laundry detergent, thermal paper, and can linings.
- PCBs in printing inks.
- We are also exploring three categories of products with flame retardants: electronics, foam used in furniture and juvenile products, and building insulation.

A [draft report](#) from Health with recommendations to reduce human exposure to flame retardants is expected in October 2019. We will coordinate with Health and their flame retardant stakeholder advisory committee to incorporate those recommendations into the Safer Products for Washington process.

For each of these preliminary product-chemical combinations, we are researching the volume of the priority chemical used in the product, the volume of the product sold in Washington, the potential for the product to expose sensitive populations or species to priority chemicals, the potential for the product to lead to environmental contamination, and the availability of safer alternatives.

Are Ecology and Health saying that these products pose a risk to the public?

Ecology and Health have not assessed the potential health risks associated with these products. The product-chemical combinations were identified because they may have the potential to expose people or the environment to priority chemicals. This is not an indication that these products pose a health risk.

Are these the priority products?

Not necessarily. We are researching whether these products meet the criteria for priority products established in the law. We are open to suggestions for other products and may add, remove or refine products as a result of our research.

Is Ecology restricting priority chemicals in these products?

Not at this time. In early 2020, we will share the results of our research on these products and a draft list of priority products. At that point, there will be an opportunity for stakeholder feedback on our draft list and rationales.

Once the priority products are finalized in June 2020, we will begin the research and stakeholder process needed to determine whether regulations are necessary. Ecology may impose a restriction, require reporting, or determine that no regulatory actions are necessary at this point in time.

When will Ecology and Health release the draft priority product list and rationales?

A draft priority product list and rationales will be released in early 2020. There will be another opportunity for feedback including a 60-day comment period and a webinar. We will finalize our list and submit the report to the Legislature no later than June 1, 2020.

How do I provide input?

If you have data or information about the preliminary product-chemical combinations that you would like us to consider in our draft reports, please email SaferProductsWA@ecy.wa.gov.

We are scheduling consultations by phone or at our headquarters office in Lacey, Washington, the first two weeks of October.

We will post a list of all entities that engaged in these conversations on the Safer Products for Washington [stakeholder website](#).

We are interested in information related to:

- Specific chemicals and concentrations found in relevant product-chemical combinations.
- Volumes of product sold or present in Washington.
- Human exposure potential.

- Environmental exposure potential.
- Availability of safer alternatives.

We invite interested parties to submit additional product- chemical combination recommendations that may be relevant for vulnerable populations.

We will consider all input received, but may not be able to incorporate all recommendations. We strive to have an open, transparent process to ensure we are listening to the public, show our work, and find the best available opportunities to keep toxic chemicals out of products. And we can use your help to make sure we do a good job.

Thank you for your continued interest,

Thank you,

Safer Products for Washington team
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