

## 5 important TSCA terms

### 1. Risk-based screening and evaluation

This describes the assessment used by EPA to determine the probability that a chemical will cause harm based on its hazard, use, and exposure to humans or the environment.

It is important to understand the difference between risk and hazard in relation to chemicals. Hazard is the ability of a chemical to cause harm under any circumstance. Risk is the probability that a chemical will cause harm based on its hazard, use, and exposure. Risk-based screenings and evaluations must take *all* of this into consideration.

### 2. Systematic review

EPA defines systematic review as the “structured process of identifying, evaluating, and integrating evidence for both the hazard and exposure assessments developed during the TSCA risk evaluation process.” Systematic reviews are thorough assessments designed to provide transparency and scientific credibility in the evaluation process.

### 3. Weight of the scientific evidence

This refers to how the agency gives the greatest weight (or importance) to evidence that comes from the strongest and most relevant studies.

### 4. Conditions of use

TSCA provides EPA with the discretion to identify a chemical’s intended, known, and reasonably foreseen conditions of use. Those cannot be based on speculation, anecdotal reports, or conjecture. EPA has the authority to evaluate the conditions of use and to take measures to impose appropriate controls to protect human health and the environment.

### 5. Best available science

TSCA requires the use of best available science, meaning that information must be of the highest quality in order to be included in the review.