



Statement

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NAFRA Responds to EPA's Preliminary Work Plan Reviews on Certain Flame Retardants

WASHINGTON (August 14, 2015) – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as a part of its Work Plan Chemicals Program, this week released several preliminary reviews on a number of flame retardants. In response to these developments, the North American Flame Retardant Alliance released the following statement:

“Flame retardants provide an important layer of fire protection and help save lives. Fires and fire deaths have dropped significantly over the past 40 years, due in part to the development of a comprehensive set of fire-safety measures that included flame retardants.”

“Given the important role flame retardants play in fire safety, we were pleased to see that the EPA is seeking public comment on its proposed approach to evaluating these chemicals and is seeking more information to inform its evaluation.

“It is worth noting that as part of its updated review process under the Work Plan Program, EPA identified 50 flame retardants it says are unlikely to pose a risk to human health. EPA’s conclusions reinforce the point that there are different types of flame retardants with very different health and safety profiles, and it is therefore not appropriate for policymakers to impose a one-size-fits-all regulatory approach for these substances.

“NAFRA members will continue to provide relevant information to the EPA to help inform the agency’s efforts. This includes the findings from a new peer-reviewed study that speaks to the safety of one of the chemicals under review, TBBPA, which is used in electronics to help protect consumers from the threat of fire. The research shows that human exposure to this chemical is 7 million times below the level associated with potential health effects. This type of information should be helpful to the EPA as it proceeds with its updated review of these chemicals.”

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