

**August 13, 2015**

## **U.S. – EPA Proposes SNUR for Trichloroethylene**

On 7 August 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed significant new use rule (SNUR) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) section 5(a) for trichloroethylene (TCE) (CAS RN 79-01-6). The proposed significant new use is the manufacture or processing of TCE for use in a consumer product, with an exception for use in cleaners and solvent degreasers, film cleaners, hoof polishes, lubricants, mirror edge sealants, and pepper spray. According to the Federal Register, TCE's use in consumer products constitutes a small percentage of all domestic uses, while the vast majority of the 250 million pounds made in and imported into the U.S. annually is sold for industrial applications, such as manufacturing refrigerant chemicals and metals degreasing. TCE is a volatile organic compound (VOC), and it is fat soluble and easily crosses biological membranes, which can be easily absorbed into the human body. TCE exposure is linked with various adverse health effects, including neurotoxicity, immunotoxicity, developmental toxicity, liver toxicity, kidney toxicity, endocrine effects and several forms of cancer. This SNUR would require persons who intend to manufacture (including import) or process the chemical substance at issue for an activity that is designated as a significant new use to notify EPA at least 90 days before commencing that activity. This notification allows EPA the opportunity to evaluate the intended use and, if necessary, to prohibit or restrict that activity. Public comments on the proposed SNUR are due 6 October 2015.

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