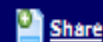




Existing Chemicals

[Contact Us](#)Search: All EPA This Area

You are here: [EPA Home](#) » [Prevention, Pesticides & Toxic Substances](#) » [Pollution Prevention & Toxics](#) » [Existing Chemicals](#) » Essential Principles for Reform of Chemicals Management Legislation

Essential Principles for Reform of Chemicals Management Legislation

Download in [PDF](#) format. (2 pp, 28 kb)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is committed to working with the Congress, members of the public, the environmental community, and the chemical industry to reauthorize the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The Administration believes it is important to work together to quickly modernize and strengthen the tools available in TSCA to increase confidence that chemicals used in commerce, which are vital to our Nation's economy, are safe and do not endanger the public health and welfare of consumers, workers, and especially sensitive sub-populations such as children, or the environment.

The following Essential Principles for Reform of Chemicals Management Legislation (Principles) are provided to help inform efforts underway in this Congress to reauthorize and significantly strengthen the effectiveness of TSCA. These Principles present Administration goals for updated legislation that will give EPA the mechanisms and authorities to expeditiously target chemicals of concern and promptly assess and regulate new and existing chemicals.

Principle No. 1: Chemicals Should Be Reviewed Against Safety Standards That Are Based on Sound Science and Reflect Risk-based Criteria Protective of Human Health and the Environment.

EPA should have clear authority to establish safety standards that are based on scientific risk assessments. Sound science should be the basis for the assessment of chemical risks, while recognizing the need to assess and manage risk in the face of uncertainty.

[Existing Chemicals Home](#)[Basic Information](#)[Enhancing Existing Chemicals](#)[Management Under TSCA](#)[Managing Chemical Risk](#)[Collecting and Assessing Information on Chemicals](#)[International Activities](#)[Related EPA Activities](#)[Finding Public Information on Chemicals](#)

Principle No. 2: Manufacturers Should Provide EPA With the Necessary Information to Conclude That New and Existing Chemicals Are Safe and Do Not Endanger Public Health or the Environment.

Manufacturers should be required to provide sufficient hazard, exposure, and use data for a chemical to support a determination by the Agency that the chemical meets the safety standard. Exposure and hazard assessments from manufacturers should be required to include a thorough review of the chemical's risks to sensitive subpopulations.

Where manufacturers do not submit sufficient information, EPA should have the necessary authority and tools, such as data call in, to quickly and efficiently require testing or obtain other information from manufacturers that is relevant to determining the safety of chemicals. EPA should also be provided the necessary authority to efficiently follow up on chemicals which have been previously assessed (e.g., requiring additional data or testing, or taking action to reduce risk) if there is a change which may affect safety, such as increased production volume, new uses or new information on potential hazards or exposures. EPA's authority to require submission of use and exposure information should extend to downstream processors and users of chemicals.

Principle No. 3: Risk Management Decisions Should Take into Account Sensitive Subpopulations, Cost, Availability of Substitutes and Other Relevant Considerations.

EPA should have clear authority to take risk management actions when chemicals do not meet the safety standard, with flexibility to take into account a range of considerations, including children's health, economic costs, social benefits, and equity concerns.

Principle No. 4: Manufacturers and EPA Should Assess and Act on Priority Chemicals, Both Existing and New, in a Timely Manner.

EPA should have authority to set priorities for conducting safety reviews on existing chemicals based on relevant risk and exposure considerations. Clear, enforceable and practicable deadlines applicable to the Agency and industry should be set for completion of chemical reviews, in particular those that might impact sensitive sub-populations.

Principle No. 5: Green Chemistry Should Be Encouraged and Provisions Assuring Transparency and Public Access to Information Should Be Strengthened.

The design of safer and more sustainable chemicals, processes, and products should be encouraged and supported through research, education, recognition, and other means. The goal of these efforts should be to increase the design, manufacture, and use of lower risk, more energy efficient and sustainable chemical products and processes.

TSCA reform should include stricter requirements for a manufacturer's claim of Confidential Business Information (CBI). Manufacturers should be required to substantiate their claims of confidentiality. Data relevant to health and safety should not be claimed or otherwise treated as CBI. EPA should be able to negotiate with other governments (local, state, and foreign) on appropriate sharing of CBI with the necessary protections, when necessary to protect public health and safety.

Principle No. 6: EPA Should Be Given a Sustained Source of Funding for Implementation.

Implementation of the law should be adequately and consistently funded, in order to meet the goal of assuring the safety of chemicals, and to maintain public confidence that EPA is meeting that goal. To that end, manufacturers of chemicals should support the costs of Agency implementation, including the review of information provided by manufacturers.

Cohort Mortality Study of Philadelphia Fire Fighters

Dalsu Baris, MD, PhD,¹ Thomas J. Garrity,² Joel Leon Telles, PhD,³

Ellen F. Heineman, PhD,¹ Andrew Olshan, PhD,⁴ and Shelia Hoar Zahm, ScD

Background: Fire fighters are exposed to a wide variety of toxic chemicals. Previous studies have reported excess risk of some cancers but have been limited by small numbers or little information on employment characteristics.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective cohort mortality study among 7,789 Philadelphia fire fighters employed between 1925 and 1986. For each cause of death, the standardized mortality ratios (SMRs) and 95% confidence intervals were estimated. We also compared mortality among groups of fire fighters defined by the estimated number of career runs and potential for diesel exposure.

Results: In comparison with U.S. white men, the fire fighters had similar mortality from all causes of death combined (SMR.0.96) and all cancers (SMR.1.10). There were statistically significant deficits of deaths from nervous system diseases (SMR .0.47), cerebrovascular diseases (SMR .0.83), respiratory diseases (SMR.0.67), genitourinary diseases (SMR.0.54), all accidents (SMR.0.72), and suicide (SMR.0.66). Statistically significant excess risks were observed for colon cancer (SMR.1.51) and ischemic heart disease (SMR.1.09). The risks of mortality from colon cancer (SMR.1.68), kidney cancer (SMR.2.20), non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (SMR.1.72), multiple myeloma (SMR.2.31), and benign neoplasms (SMR.2.54) were increased among fire fighters with at least 20 years of service.

Conclusions: Our study found no significant increase in overall mortality among Philadelphia fire fighters. However, we observed increased mortality for cancers of the colon and kidney, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and multiple myeloma. There was insufficient follow-up since the introduction of diesel equipment to adequately assess risk.

Am. J. Ind. Med. 39:463±476, 2001. Published 2001 Wiley-Liss, Inc.y