

## DRAFT ECOS Resolution 2-28-2012

### PCBs in Products Resolution – Discussion Draft

WHEREAS,

PCBs cause serious health effects including cancer and non-cancer effects such as effects on the immune system, reproductive system, nervous system, and endocrine system;<sup>1</sup> and

In addition to being toxic, PCBs are also persistent and bioaccumulative.<sup>2</sup> This means they remain in the environment for long periods of time and increase in concentration within organisms or within the food chain; and

Under TSCA the U.S. banned the production of PCBs in 1979, with certain exceptions, because they presented “an unreasonable risk of injury to health within the U.S.”;<sup>3</sup> and

PCBs continue to be found in people in the U.S.<sup>4</sup>; and

PCB contaminated fish are the primary source of PCBs for people, and many of our fish are too contaminated to eat safely, leading to fish advisories. In 2010 there were 1,084 fish advisories for PCBs in 40 states<sup>5</sup>; and

The existing PCBs in our environment are adversely affecting human health and the environment; and

We spend millions of dollars each year cleaning up PCBs; and

PCBs were used in many applications, and exposure is ongoing from legacy sources such as transformers and capacitors. PCBs already in the environment continue to be redistributed and dispersed through disposal, recycling, leaking, and other pathways; and

New products may contain PCBs, including inadvertently generated PCBs that are allowed in products at less than an annual average of 25 ppm, with a 50 ppm maximum. There is inadvertent production of PCBs during certain manufacturing processes, such as pigment and ink manufacturing; and

Paper recycling is beneficial, but facilities that recycle paper have PCBs in their effluent due to the PCBs present in inks/pigments. These levels are low, but due to the PCBs already in the environment, facilities are sometimes regulated for such low discharges of PCBs; and

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2000) Toxicological Profile for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs).

<sup>2</sup> EPA considers PCBs to be PBTs (<http://www.epa.gov/pbt/pubs/cheminfo.htm>). PCBs were one of the 12 original persistent organic pollutants (POPs) under the Stockholm Convention (<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/ThePOPs/The12InitialPOPs/tabid/296/Default.aspx>), which the U.S. signed, but has not ratified.

<sup>3</sup> 40 CFR 761.20.

<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control (CDC) National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm>

<sup>5</sup> EPA (2011) National Listing of Fish Advisories: General Fact Sheet 2010 [http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/fishshellfish/fishadvisories/general\\_factsheet\\_2010.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/fishshellfish/fishadvisories/general_factsheet_2010.cfm)

Use of chlorinated solvents in the manufacture of inks/pigments is one source of PCBs found in recycled paper; and

Individual states cannot address PCBs in recycled paper, because recycling facilities receive paper from many other states; and The current regulatory limits on PCBs in excluded products were based on economic considerations, rather than exposure or risk assessments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

ECOS recommends that EPA, industry, and states work together on alternatives to chlorinated solvents used in pigment and ink manufacturing to develop manufacturing processes in the next five years that do not generate PCBs.

ECOS supports a national approach to the problem of inadvertently created PCBs in inks and pigments.

ECOS supports EPA's proposed rulemaking to reassess the current use authorizations for PCBs, which includes products with PCBs less than 50 ppm and inadvertently generated PCBs in products at less than 25 ppm.<sup>6</sup> EPA should move forward with this rulemaking to better protect human health and the environment.

ECOS recommends that EPA continue its efforts reduce PCBs and work with the international community on the elimination of PCBs<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Federal Register Vol. 75, No. 66, Wednesday, April 7, 2010. Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM).

<sup>7</sup> Stockholm Convention implementation

<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/PCBs/PCBsEliminationNetworkPEN/tabid/438/Default.aspx>