

Consumer Product Ingredient Communication Initiative Commonly Asked Questions

What is the Consumer Product Ingredient Communication Initiative?

- Member companies of the Consumer Specialty Products Association (CSPA), The Soap and Detergent Association (SDA) and the Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA) are responding to consumer requests for ingredient information.
- The goals of this voluntary program are:
 - to provide meaningful information on ingredients;
 - in a consistent, easy-to-understand, proactive manner;
 - that will help consumers make informed decisions about the products they use in and around their homes.

What are the elements of the initiative?

- The initiative will include the disclosure of ingredients intentionally added to air care products, automotive products, cleaning products, and polishes and floor maintenance products. This includes many of the products used in and around the home, such as air fresheners, laundry detergents, dish care products, and floor waxes and polishes.
- This information will be provided to consumers on the product's label, the manufacturer's website, through a toll-free number or through other non-electronic means (to assist those who do not have access to the Internet).
- The program will become effective in January 2010. This will provide product manufacturers the necessary time to get the systems in place and develop the various mechanisms to reach consumers.
- The format for ingredient listing will follow the format already in place under federal law for cosmetics. Ingredients present at a concentration greater than one percent (1%) will be listed in descending order by predominance. All other ingredients will be listed in an order determined by the product manufacturer.

How are these products currently regulated?

In the United States, these products must meet labeling requirements as established through the current system of risk evaluation and risk-based labeling under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) regulations for consumer products and administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Through the FHSA regulations, the point of purchase label informs consumers about the potential hazards, product

ingredients contributing to those hazards, appropriate handling and storage, and applicable first aid information.

In Canada, there are various laws which regulate ingredients and labels for consumer products. Ingredients that make up these product types are regulated under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA) by Environment Canada and Health Canada. For product packages and labels, the *Consumer Chemicals and Containers Regulations* (CCCR, 2001) by Health Canada contains packaging requirements for precautionary labeling to ensure that consumers are aware of the potential hazards if the products are not used correctly and safely.

Why is industry providing this ingredient information?

- Our companies are responding to the changing desires of consumers and the marketplace.
- This initiative builds upon the comprehensive labeling systems currently in Canada and the United States. It also complements the Canadian Chemicals Management Plan and the U.S. Chemical Assessment and Management Program (ChAMP).
- Additionally, under the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, both governments are committed to ensuring the safety of chemicals and working towards greater collaboration with respect to sharing data and information to ultimately protect our citizens and our environment. SDA, CSPA and CCSPA share the goals of that commitment and believe this initiative is consistent with that intent.

What products are not included?

- Products that are already subject to labeling regulations, such as disinfectants and pest management products, are not included in this initiative. Labels for consumer products regulated in Canada under the *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA) and the *Food & Drugs Act* (F&DA) are reviewed and pre-approved by government. Likewise, in the United States, these products are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Are products used in the workplace included in this initiative?

- No, both countries have rigorous and comprehensive labeling requirements for products that are used in the workplace; there is also mandatory worker training.
- Under those regulations, hazardous ingredient information is provided on the product's Material Data Safety Sheet and appropriate warning and first aid information on the label.

Where can I find more information about this initiative?

- For the parameters of the program, please go to the CCSPA website for consumers: <http://www.healthycleaning101.org> or Consumer Specialty Products Association <http://www.cspa.org> or The Soap and Detergent Association <http://www.cleaning101.com>.