



*Safer Products through Chemicals Policy:
Business-NGO Guiding Principles*

Mark Rossi, PhD

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Chemical Challenges in Products in Health Care

- Latex
- Mercury
- PVC + DEHP
- Brominated flame retardants
- Bisphenol A





- **Our mission**

To **promote the creation and adoption of safer chemicals and sustainable materials** in a way that supports market transitions to a healthy economy, healthy environment, and healthy people.

- **Our issues**

- safer chemicals
- sustainable materials
- policy initiatives

www.busngoworkgroup.org

Participants include ...

- **Health care:** Catholic Healthcare West, Consorta, Health Care Without Harm, Kaiser Permanente, Practice Greenhealth, Premier, Hospira, J&J
- **Electronics:** Dell, HP
- **Furnishings / Buildings:** Construction Specialties, True Textiles, Q Collection, Perkins+Will
- **Retail:** Staples, Whole Foods
- **NGOs:** Breast Cancer Fund, Clean Production Action, Commonweal, Ecology Center, Healthy Building Network, Natural Resources Defense Council, and others



Guiding Principles for Chemicals Policy

1. Know and disclose product chemistry

2. Assess and avoid hazards

3. Commit to continuous improvement

4. Support public policies and industry standards

Guiding Principles for Chemicals Policy

Endorsers Include ...

Health Care Organizations

- Catholic Healthcare West
- Consorta, Inc.
- Kaiser Permanente
- Premier, Inc.

NGOs

- Health Care Without Harm
- Practice Greenhealth
- Ecology Center
- Clean Production Action
- Commonweal
- Breast Cancer Fund

Businesses

- Hospira, Inc.
- Corporate Express / Staples
- Hewlett Packard (HP)
- Construction Specialties, Inc.
- True Textiles, Inc.
- IHS
- Method
- Seventh Generation
- Whole Foods

Endorsed by over 40 leading health care organizations, businesses, investors and NGOs

1. Know and Disclose Product Chemistry



Manufacturers need to:

- **know the chemical ingredients** in their products and
- increase **transparency of chemical ingredients in their products**, especially **the public disclosure of chemicals of high concern**.

Buyers will request this data from their suppliers.

Know Product Chemistry



Collects chemical constituent data down to 100 ppm



Disclose Product Chemistry

Method & Seventh Generation

- Seventh Generation – “we disclose all ingredients”*
- Method – “the naked truth” – chemical ingredients listed for each product**



*Color pigments: chemical ingredients are not listed for certain products.

**Fragrances and color pigments: chemical ingredients are not listed.

2. Assess and Avoid Hazards

Manufacturers to

- determine the **hazards of chemical ingredients** in their products,
- **use chemicals with inherently low hazard potential,**
- **prioritize chemicals of high concern for elimination,**
- **minimize exposure** when hazards cannot be prevented, and
- **redesign products and processes** to avoid the use and/or generation of hazardous chemicals.

Buyers to work with their suppliers to achieve this principle.



Avoid Chemicals of High Concern

- Mercury
- Latex
- DEHP & PVC
- Bisphenol A (BPA)
- Brominated Flame Retardants (BFRs)
- Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics (PBTs)
- Proposition 65 chemicals (carcinogens & reprotox)



3. Commit to Continuous Improvement

Establish corporate

governance structures, policies and practices that:

- create a framework for the **regular review** of product and process chemistry and
- **promote the use of chemicals, processes, and products with inherently lower hazard potential.**



Kaiser Permanente's Organizational Guideline - Chemicals

To advance an economy where the production and use of chemicals are not harmful for humans as well as for our global environment and its non-human inhabitants, Kaiser Permanente adopts the following five guiding principles for chemicals:

1. **Understand product chemistry.** To increase the transparency of the chemical constituents in products we buy, we will request product chemistry data from their suppliers.
2. **Assess and avoid hazards.** We will encourage suppliers to use chemicals with inherently low hazard potential, eliminate chemicals of high concern, minimize exposure when hazards cannot be prevented, and redesign products and processes to avoid the use and/or generation of hazardous chemicals.
3. **Commit to continuous improvement.** Create a framework for the review of product and process chemistry, and promote the use of chemicals, processes, and products with inherently lower hazard potential.
4. **Support industry standards** that, in KP's opinion, eliminate or reduce known hazards and promote a greener economy, including support for green chemistry research and education.
5. **Inform public policies** and be part of the public dialogue that advances the implementation of the above principles.

4. Support Public Policies and Industry Standards that ...



- advance the implementation of the above three principles,
- ensure that comprehensive hazard data are available for chemicals on the market,
- take action to eliminate or reduce known hazards and
- promote a greener economy, including support for green chemistry research and education.

Support Public Policies



Catholic Healthcare West

CHW

July 2, 2008

Secretary Linda Adams
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

Re: California Green Chemistry Initiative--Support

Dear Secretary Adams:

On behalf of Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) and our family of 41 hospitals throughout California, Arizona, and Nevada, I would like to congratulate you on launching the Green Chemistry Initiative. We wholeheartedly support you in the development and implementation of green chemistry in California.

Act

- Endorse Guiding Principles
 - Request chemical ingredients in products
 - Select inherently safer products
 - Commit to continuous improvement
 - Support public policies
- Use Guide to Choosing Safer Products

- Work with:



PRACTICE
Greenhealth



Thank You!

Business-NGO Working Group -- Guiding Principles

www.busngoworkgroup.org

Guide to Choosing Safer Products and Chemicals

www.noarm.org/us/chemicalpolicy/guide

Mark Rossi, PhD

Clean Production Action

Mark@CleanProduction.org

781.391.6743