

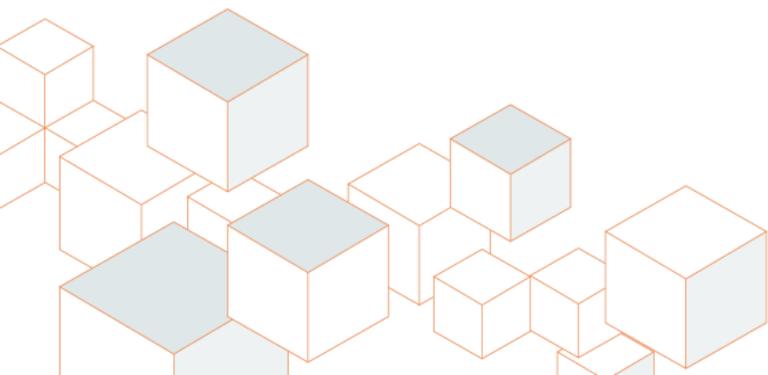
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The Chemical Safety Improvement Act: Reaffirming Risk Assessment in Regulating Chemicals

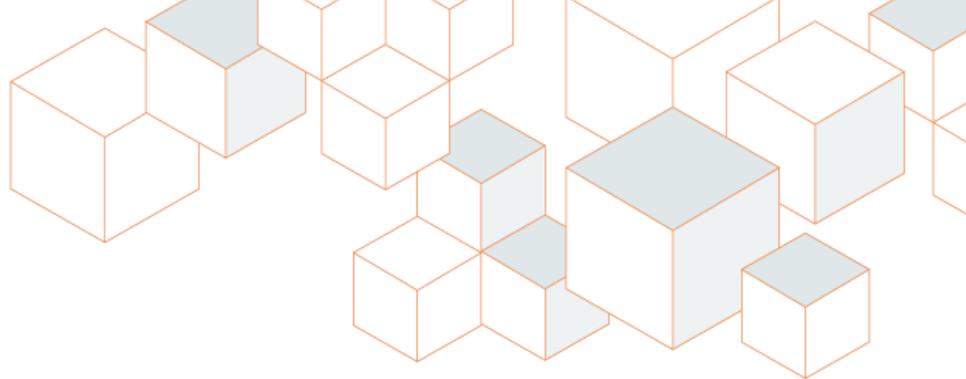
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S. 1009 - the Chemical Safety Improvement Act



- Introduced on May 22, 2013, by Senators Lautenberg and Vitter to reauthorize and modernize the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).
- To date, over a dozen other Senators from both parties are cosponsors.
- Supported by numerous organizations, including the American Chemistry Council, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- A companion bill in the House has not yet been introduced.

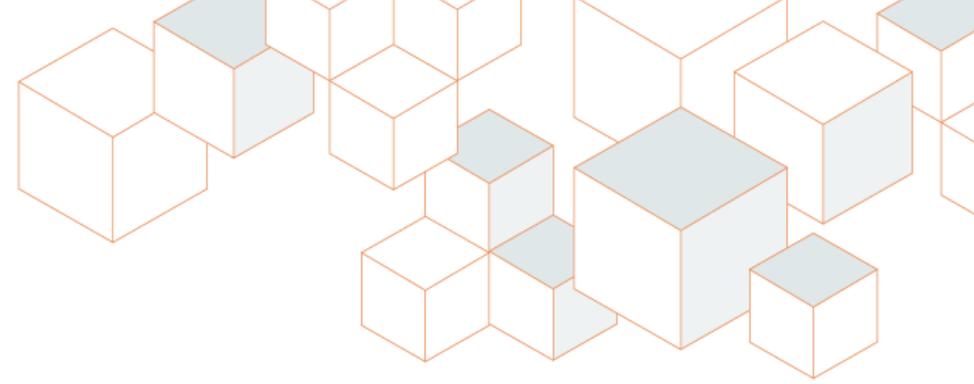


Strengthens the Science Underlying Risk Assessment

Requires EPA to develop a risk framework for evaluating the safety of chemicals in commerce. Among other considerations, the framework would:

- Use sound and objective scientific practices in assessing risks.
- Consider thresholds for both non-cancer and cancer effects, when consistent with the underlying data.

Strengthens the Science Underlying Risk Assessment



The framework would also:

- Consider the best available science, which:
 - ❑ Uses peer-reviewed and publicly available data.
 - ❑ Clearly documents and communicates risks and uncertainties.

- Describe risks based on a weight of evidence approach, which:
 - ❑ Considers mechanistic information.

Reaffirms Risk Assessment in Regulating Chemicals

- EPA would establish a risk-based screening process to identify high priority existing chemicals that will:
 - ❑ undergo a safety assessment and
 - ❑ a determination as to whether the chemical is safe for its intended use.
- The safety assessment is based solely on considerations of risk to human health and the environment.
- If a chemical is not safe for its intended use then EPA will impose restrictions based on the weight of evidence and magnitude of risk.

Reaffirms Risk Assessment in Regulating Chemicals

- Relying on risk assessment allows for the efficient allocation of resources so as to garner the most public and environmental health benefit.
- Risk assessment rather than hazard classifications as a basis of chemical regulation creates a level playing field on which companies can compete and innovate.
- Focusing only on hazard may inadvertently promote the use of less effective and riskier chemicals; societal costs may increase without commensurate benefits.

Latin American Cholera Epidemic in the 1990s

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- A stark example of what can happen when only hazard drives decisions occurred in Peru in the early 1990s.
 - Concern about the cancer hazard posed by chlorine disinfection by-products led officials in Peru and other Latin American countries to abandon chlorination of drinking water.
 - The result: a cholera epidemic which spread to 19 Latin American countries, killing thousands.



Conclusion

- Rather than abandon risk assessment for hazard classification, the better choice is to improve on risk assessment.
- S. 1009, the Chemical Safety Improvement Act, does that and more.

