

6

ways to help snuff out PBDE FLAME RETARDANTS



Purpose

The IJC's Water Quality Board is searching for solutions to the use of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and other toxic substances as flame retardants



That includes looking at ways to avoid the release of PBDEs during product use, recycling and disposal, and the role that Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) might play.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In a report to the IJC, the board recommends:



1: The responsible governments (federal, provincial, state, Tribes, First Nations, Métis and municipalities) should ensure that product flammability standards for products and structures, toxicity standards for flame retardants, and use of redesign options are approached in an integrated way to ensure the best achievement of both protection from flammability problems and protection of the environment.

2:

The IJC should undertake a trial run for a different style of regulatory development that breaks out of silos by integrating the three topics in Recommendation 1, by operating in a multi-stakeholder led process, and by working across government borders in the Great Lakes ecosystem.



3:

The responsible governments should educate the public on issues with PBDE-containing products in their homes and how to reduce associated risks.

4:

The responsible governments and industry should complete research to increase understanding of the implications of different recycling and disposal methods.

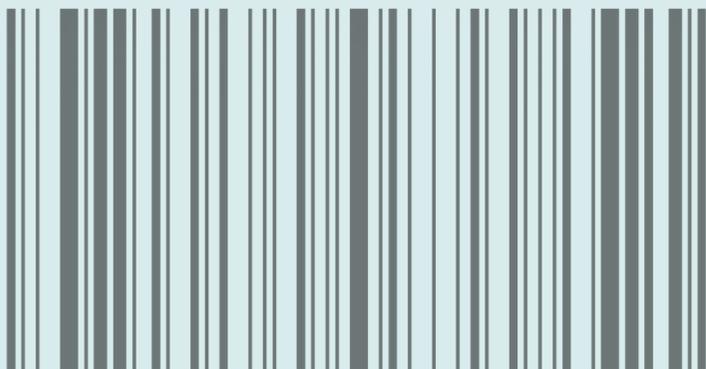
5: The responsible governments should go beyond the requirement for an inventory of products containing PBDEs. This should be expanded to make it easier for the consumer to be aware of the presence of PBDEs by requiring labels on all products and through mechanisms such as barcode scanning apps on phones.



Credit: Craig Wyzik

6:

The responsible governments should encourage industry to work with a full range of stakeholders to develop an EPR program for flame retardant-containing products. This would explore mechanisms for addressing products containing PBDEs and new products made with alternative flame retardants. This could become a model for EPR programs for other toxics-containing products.



More

Read the report, "Addressing Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers in the Great Lakes Basin: Searching for Solutions to Key Challenges" at the Water Quality Board website:

ijc.org/en_/wqb