

Immediate Release
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NEW COALITION FOR “CHEMICAL AWARENESS” WILL EXPAND PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Washington, DC (March 24) – A coalition of trade associations and manufacturers today announced a joint initiative to increase public access to information on chemicals.

The newly formed Alliance for Chemical Awareness, made up of representatives from chemical producers, trade associations and chemical users, plans to partner with government and non-governmental organizations “to enhance the availability of information to the public about major chemicals in commerce.”

The group will focus initially on chemicals being tested as part of the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s High Production Volume (HPV) Chemical Challenge Program. These are chemicals produced or imported in amounts exceeding one million pounds a year.

More than 400 companies have volunteered to evaluate potential health and environmental hazards for over 2,000 chemicals under the program. The results will be shared with the public.

As a first step, the Alliance will develop a framework to help manufacturers and regulators assess the risks of chemicals. It will also establish a network of information sources and tools to help companies and government agencies communicate the uses, risks, benefits, alternatives and uncertainties of chemicals.

“This information is likely to influence a wide variety of public and private choices about how to best manage those chemicals throughout the world,” said Alliance chairman Larry Games of Procter & Gamble, one of the companies supporting the initiative. “Participants in the Alliance believe these choices will be improved substantially by enhanced access to objective, timely and relevant information.”

The Alliance will seek to facilitate the inclusion of chemical exposure data in chemical risk characterizations and will develop a library of accepted models for such characterizations.

Games said the activities and information generated by the Alliance will be coordinated with similar efforts in other countries. More information on the Alliance can be found on the Internet at www.chemicalawareness.org.