

Chemistry Assistance Manual for Premanufacture Notification Submitters

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PREFACE

Since the passage of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in 1976, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received and reviewed nearly 30,000 Premanufacture Notifications (PMNs) for new chemical substances. During this period, the Agency has developed both a review process to estimate the risk attributable to a new chemical substance and a decision process to determine whether an unreasonable risk may occur if the substance is commercialized.

The information included in the PMN submissions constitutes the basis of the Agency's risk assessments. Careful consideration is given to all submitted physicochemical, environmental, and health-related data. If the PMN does not contain chemical properties or other information needed for assessment, the Agency scientists often must estimate the missing values. This leads to less accurate risk assessments than might be desirable, and may lead to regulation of substances that would not have been regulated if data had been available.

The purpose of this book is to assist submitters in the technical aspects of PMN preparation. EPA's hope is that, with this information, submitters will be able to develop more physicochemical property data and other technical information for their new substances so that the Agency's ability to perform accurate risk assessments will increase. Chapter 1 provides a discussion of the PMN review process, emphasizing its scientific aspects. Chapter 2, the heart of the book, reviews the most important physicochemical properties, including methods for measurement and estimation, and describes how EPA uses these properties to assess the risks of PMN substances. Chapter 3 discusses the Agency's pollution prevention program as it relates to the PMN program, emphasizing factors that submitters should consider in the development of new chemical substances and in their preparation of PMNs. Both references and a list

of selected reading materials containing additional information are included at the end of each chapter. Also included is an Appendix, which provides an historical overview of the factors and events leading to the passage of TSCA, a summary of the premanufacture provisions of TSCA, and a review of the Agency's implementation of TSCA.

This book is intended primarily for people in the chemical industry who are involved with the design and development of new chemical substances, and the submission of PMNs. This book is also intended for a broader audience of other individuals such as technical managers, risk assessors, and risk managers who are involved with evaluating chemical substances for potential risks. We feel that the information contained in this book will help these individuals make better risk assessment and risk management decisions.

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Acknowledgment

The authors gratefully acknowledge the support and encouragement of our many EPA colleagues who rigorously reviewed this book or provided helpful comments or assistance during its preparation:

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Rochester, NY)

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