

Fact Sheet
March 2004

SB20 Testing Results for LCD Monitors and Laptop Computers



ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



Background

Senate Bill 20 (SB 20) (Sher), known as the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003, established a statewide program to promote and fund the collection and recycling of hazardous electronic devices beginning July 1, 2004. Under the new law, retailers will collect an advance recycling fee on covered electronic devices at the time of purchase.

The money collected will be used to fund an electronic waste recycling program that reimburses authorized electronic wastes collectors and recyclers. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) jointly administer the program. SB 20 identifies covered electronic devices as cathode ray tubes (CRTs), flat panel screens, and other similar devices that DTSC determines to be hazardous. DTSC's Hazardous Materials Laboratory is now testing consumer electronic devices to determine if they are hazardous.

Additional Hazardous Devices

A preliminary report on the results of recent toxicity testing on laptop computers and liquid crystal display (LCD) desktop computer monitors indicate that these devices contain hazardous levels of copper and lead. The determination means that these devices will join CRTs as covered devices regulated under SB 20.

How Were the Devices Tested?

The lab's findings are available on DTSC's Web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/CRTs/HWMP_REP_SB20_LCD.pdf in a report entitled "Determination of Regulated Elements in Laptop Computers and LCD Desktop Monitors for SB 20." The report details how laptop computers and LCD monitors of different brands and models were analyzed. Testing methods included the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure and the California Waste Extraction Test. The results of these tests were compared to the hazardous waste regulatory thresholds for each analysis.

For More Information

The SB 20 regulations and related information are available on DTSC's Web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegulationsPolicies and www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html under Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.5 and Public Resources Code and www.calregs.com under Title 22 Division 4.5.

For more information, please call the regional Public and Business Liaisons at (800) 72TOXIC (1-800-728-6942) or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov.