

## **SAFER CONSUMER PRODUCTS**

### **Graphic Open**

#### **PART I**

- **SLATE: What DTSC is asking manufacturers to do**

#### **SOT of Debbie Raphael – DTSC Director**

The exciting thing about this law that we are putting in place here in California is that it's asking manufacturers to ask a very different question. It's asking them to step back, look at they're design process and say 'is it necessary? Is it necessary for me to make this product with this toxic chemical in it? Is there a safer alternative that I can substitute, as a manufacturer, and still make my product, still make a living, still have a profit, still have a business here in California but do so with the environment and the health of Californians in mind.

- **SLATE : What are the Chemicals of Concern**

#### **SOT of Debbie Raphael – DTSC Director**

So there's a whole range of hazards and factors that can put something into our list of chemicals of concern. What we did to create that list is we looked around the world because this is not a new concept to create a list of chemicals of concern. Europe has done this. Canada has done this. The state of Washington has done this. All across the world people are asking question what are the chemicals we should be worrying about. What we have done in California is we have taken all those lists...we've taken over 20 of those lists. We put them together see where the overlaps are and come up with our own list of chemicals of concern. What we are doing here to make this even more meaningful...so we haven't just made created a list of lists together...is we have the ability to add things to that list that aren't yet identified by other government bodies. For example, if the science is telling us that a chemical appears to have strong evidence that it's causing a problem in the endocrine systems of wild life but it's not yet on one of those 20 lists. We have the ability to act on it and put it on our list with what we're calling reliable evidence...strong science...we can add things to this list of lists and therefore keep it up to date.

- **SLATE: How will the list of Chemicals of Concern be used?**

### **SOT of Debbie Raphael – DTSC Director**

It is a big list of chemicals and what we want to do is...that list does two things. That list is what we use to try and identify particular products that we will focus on. It also is a signal to the market place. When used properly, in the way we hope it will be used, those lists of chemicals will be red flags...we hope...to product designers, to chemists, to young people and universities interested in finding out how to make safer products. It will be some guide posts for chemicals to avoid if possible. If they aren't necessary let's find a safer alternative.

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