



# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

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## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Contact: Ron Baker  
916.324.3142

### **Law to Restrict Heavy Metals in Electronic Devices**

**SACRAMENTO** – To meet the mandates of SB 20 (2003 Sher) “Electronic Waste Recycling Act, of 2003” the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced that a provision of the law will take effect on Jan. 1, 2007, limiting the levels of lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, and cadmium, in certain electronic devices.

The provision requires the DTSC to mirror aspects of electronic manufacturing regulations of the European Union (EU). The new regulations would ban the sale of electronic devices in California that are prohibited from being sold in the EU due to the presence of certain heavy metals. Electronic devices listed under the provision only include certain: covered electronic devices (cathode ray tube devices – including televisions and computer monitors; LCD desktop monitors; laptop computers with LCD displays; LCD televisions; and plasma televisions). These listings apply only to devices with a video display of four inches or larger – measured diagonally.

The EU has established Maximum Concentration Values for lead, mercury, and hexavalent chromium at 0.1% by weight. The maximum concentration value for cadmium has been set at .01% by weight.

Under the provision:

- California’s restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances will be consistent with the European Directive (2002/95/EC), but narrower in scope.
- An electronic product that legally can be sold in the EU (one that complies with the requirements of the EU directive) will not be banned from sale in California.
- Electronic devices that are restricted from sale in the EU, but are not covered electronic devices, will not be banned from sale in California even if they exceed one or more of the maximum concentration values (MCVs).

The law does not require manufacturers to register with the DTSC however to track the sale of electronic products meeting the provision. However, manufacturers are required to submit an annual report to the California Integrated Waste Management Board by Jul. 1 for products sold during the previous calendar year. Manufacturers are also required to provide the estimated average amount in milligrams for mercury, cadmium, lead, and hexavalent chromium – including alloys and compounds – and Polybrominated Biphenyls which are used in covered electronic devices, and all of their component parts by product category.

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***The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC’s mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.***