



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Principal Center for Regulatory Risk Analysis and Communication

REGULATORY ALERT

Decabromodiphenyl Ether (DecaBDE) Phase-out Announcement

This information was prepared by NASA's Principal Center for Regulatory Risk Analysis and Communication (RRAC). An archive of regulatory alerts, summaries and other information is posted on the [website](#). If you have further questions and/or need assistance, please contact Sharon Scroggins (256-544-7932, sharon.scroggins@nasa.gov).

Date: 17 December 2009

Regulatory Agency: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Rulemaking Type: Not applicable

Title: Decabromodiphenyl Ether (DecaBDE) Phaseout Announcement

Summary:

On 17 December 2009, two United States (U.S.) producers of decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE), Albemarle Corporation and Chemtura Corporation, and the largest U.S. importer, ICL Industrial Products, Inc., announced commitments to end production, importation, and sales of decaBDE for most uses in the U.S. by 31 December 2012, and to end all uses by the end of 2013.

DecaBDE is a flame retardant that has been used in electronics, wire and cable insulation, textiles, and other applications. The phase-outs came after negotiations between the companies and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). No formal rulemakings were issued to drive the phase-out. However, in a statement released by EPA on 17 December 2009, EPA acknowledged that it "has long been concerned about its impact on human health and the environment. Studies have shown that decaBDE persists in the environment, potentially causes cancer and may impact brain function. DecaBDE also can degrade to more toxic chemicals that are frequently found in the environment and are hazardous to wildlife."

Potential Impacts to NASA:

The phase-out of decaBDE may result in vendors and suppliers reformulating products that contain the flame retardant. NASA Programs should be aware of this phase-out and identify materials in the supply chain that may contain decaBDE and that may require future material replacement efforts.

Additional Information: <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals/pubs/actionplans/deccadbe.html>