



January 1, 2006

PENTA- AND OCTA-BDE BANS TAKE EFFECT

Life-saving flame retardant Deca-BDE poses no health or environmental risks

On Jan. 1, 2006, legislative bans of the brominated flame retardants Octabromodiphenyl ether (Octa-BDE) and Pentabromodiphenyl ether (Penta-BDE) went into effect in the states of Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Michigan and New York. These bans follow the Dec. 31, 2004, voluntary cessation of production of Penta- and Octa-BDE by the sole manufacturer of these products, a year ahead of any legislative mandates.

Predictably, activists have once again chosen to ignore years of research and thousands of lives saved by renewing their attacks on Deca-BDE, the most effective flame retardant currently in use. In fact, Deca-BDE, the only PBDE in production and use, is the most studied flame retardant on the market, having been the subject of an extensive 10-year evaluation by the European Union, as well as other major studies performed by the US EPA and the US National Academy of Sciences, and has been found to present no significant risks to humans or the environment. Deca-BDE was recently exempted from further regulation by the European Union.

In its areas of application, Deca-BDE is the most effective flame retardant available and potential alternatives have not undergone the same rigorous scrutiny regarding potential human health and environmental impacts. Deca-BDE is a safe, efficient and effective life-saving flame retardant with many years of scientific evidence supporting its continued use.

BSEF is the international organization of the bromine chemical industry, whose purpose is to inform stakeholders and commission science on brominated chemicals such as flame retardants