



# HSIA

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# SOLVENTS NEWS YOU CAN USE

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CONTACT: [FGraul@hsia.org](mailto:FGraul@hsia.org)

## **EPA ROLLS BACK PLANS TO RESTRICT CERTAIN USES OF TRICHLOROETHYLENE AND METHYLENE CHLORIDE**

In December, the Trump Administration released a new regulatory plan for EPA that moved restrictions on certain uses of trichloroethylene (TCE), and methylene chloride (DCM), proposed by the Obama Administration in the month before the inauguration, to a “long term action” category. The uses that would have been restricted, and are no longer in jeopardy, are aerosol and vapor degreasing and spot cleaning for TCE and paint stripping for DCM. HSIA had commented extensively to EPA asking that any restrictions on these uses be considered as part of the upcoming risk evaluations already scheduled for the two solvents under the amended Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). We look forward to participating in these upcoming risk evaluations.

## **HSIA COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON METHYLENE CHLORIDE- BASED PAINT STRIPPERS**

On December 7th and January 2nd, *CBS This Morning* aired segments on the use of methylene chloride- based paint strippers in bathtub refinishing. HSIA’s Executive Director was interviewed and emphasized that HSIA is working with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to improve labeling that would make it very clear these products should not be used for bathtub refinishing. HSIA’s responses to these segments can be found at [www.hsia.org](http://www.hsia.org)

In a related development, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control published for public comment a proposal to list methylene chloride-based paint strippers as a “priority product.” Written comments are due on January 18th and HSIA plans to comment. A public hearing was held on January 9th and one of HSIA’s associate member companies provided testimony at the hearing.

## **HSIA PARTICIPATES IN A SOLVENTS PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE NEW JERSEY TEXCARE TRADE SHOW**

In October, HSIA participated on a panel to discuss cleaning solutions for the dry cleaning industry during the New Jersey TexCare Expo. HSIA represented perchloroethylene users. Also participating were representatives of Green Earth, a D5 siloxane based product; Sensene, a new cleaning solution developed by Dow Chemical and spun off to a German company, Safechem; hydrocarbon solvents; and Solvon K4, a German based company. Nora Nealis, Executive Director of the New York based National Cleaners Association, pointed out what while perchloroethylene is heavily regulated, others should be “mindful of possible future regulations for alternative solvents.” New York State, in fact, is looking at how to regulate these alternative solvents and a representative of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation was in the audience.

