

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Safer Consumer Products Program
P.O. Box 806, 1001 I Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806

Project Title: Safer Consumer Products: Adding Microplastics to the Candidate Chemicals List (Regulation Reference Number R-2023-05R)

Project Location: Statewide

County: Countywide

Project Applicant: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC: Regulations

Statutory Authority: Other (specify): California Health and Safety Code, sections 25252, 25253, and 58012

Project Description: The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), pursuant to authority granted by Health and Safety Code sections 25252, 25253, and 58012, approved a regulatory amendment to amend section 69502.2 and add subsections 69502.2(c) and 69502.2(c)(1) to article 2, chapter 55, division 4.5 of title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR). This regulatory action will add microplastics to the Candidate Chemicals List (article 2 of the Safer Consumer Products Regulations).

Background: DTSC's Safer Consumer Products Regulations, adopted in 2013, strive to reduce toxic chemicals in products and create safer substitutes for hazardous ingredients in consumer products sold in California. The regulations emphasize safer products and healthier lives by reducing or eliminating use of toxic chemicals, while allowing manufacturers to determine how to best address human health or environmental concerns related to their products.

These regulations specify a process for adding chemicals to the Candidate Chemicals List (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 22, section 69502.2(b)). The regulations require DTSC to evaluate and prioritize product/Candidate Chemical combinations and to add these product/Candidate Chemical combinations to the Priority Products List (Article 11 of the Safer Consumer Products Regulations). DTSC selects Priority Products based on the potential for exposure to the Chemical(s) of Concern in the product and the potential for this exposure to contribute to or cause widespread or significant adverse impacts to people or the environment.

Project Activities: DTSC adopted a rule adding microplastics to the Candidate Chemicals List based on findings that (1) there are potential exposures to microplastics, and (2) there is potential for one or more of these microplastics exposures to contribute to or cause adverse impacts.

Listing one or more chemicals as a Candidate Chemical does not place regulatory obligations on chemical manufacturers or on product manufacturers that use the chemical(s). However, it does give DTSC the option of regulating the chemical(s) in specific consumer products in the future, based on certain findings. A Candidate Chemical that is the basis for a product being listed as a Priority Product is designated as a Chemical of Concern for that product. DTSC selects Priority Products based on the potential risk of exposure to the Chemical(s) of Concern in the product and the potential for this exposure to contribute to or cause widespread or significant adverse impacts to people or the environment.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption [14 CCR 15308]; General Rule [14 CCR 15061(b)(3)]

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: DTSC has determined none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions apply to this project, as described in Public Resources Code section 21084(c), (d), and (e), and CCR, title 14, section 15300.2. DTSC has determined that the proposed regulatory amendments are actions taken by DTSC to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.

The project will not result in a change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. Therefore, DTSC finds with certainty that there is not a possibility that the activities in question will result in a significant environmental effect.

The administrative record for this project is available to the public by appointment at the following location:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Safer Consumer Products Program
P.O. Box 806, 1001 I Street, 12th floor
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806

Additional project information is available at <https://dtsc.ca.gov/regs/>.

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Approver's Signature:



Date: 6/23/2026

Approver's Name

Simona Balan, PhD

Approver's Title

Environmental Program
Manager, Safer Consumer
Products Program

**Approver's Phone
Number**

510-540-3888

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