

INTERSTATE CHEMICALS



CLEARINGHOUSE

## News Release

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[www.newmoa.org/prevention/ic2/aaguidance.cfm](http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/ic2/aaguidance.cfm)

### Media Contacts:

Alex Stone, (360) 407-6758, [alst461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:alst461@ecy.wa.gov)

Terri Goldberg, (617) 367-8558 x302, [tgoldberg@newmoa.org](mailto:tgoldberg@newmoa.org)

## Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2) Releases Guide to Help Evaluate Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals

**Boston** – The Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2) published today a [Guide](#) to help businesses, governments, and interested parties evaluate alternatives to toxic chemicals in products. The *Guide* is designed help create safer products and reduce the impact that chemicals have on human health and the environment. The IC2 is an association of state, local, and tribal governments that promotes a clean environment, healthy communities, and a vital economy through the development and use of safer chemicals and products.

The document is titled *IC2 Alternatives Assessment Guide*. Alternatives assessment is a process that helps companies and others consider the potential impact alternatives could have on human health and the environment before they are used in manufacturing processes or products to replace chemicals of concern. IC2's members have been collaborating on developing common definitions and best practices around the alternatives assessment process for several years. This common framework is the basis for the *Guide*.

The *Guide* is built on the alternatives assessment process pioneered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Design for the Environment Program. The IC2 has been working with companies, EPA, and others to share results and best practices.

“This is an important tool that’ll help companies identify safer materials,” said Washington State Department of Ecology Director Maia Bellon. “It’s a proactive approach to help remove toxic chemicals from everyday products.”

“Consumers are increasingly seeking ways to identify alternatives to hazardous chemicals, such as brominated flame retardants,” said New York State Department of Environmental

Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Joe Martens. “As additional chemicals become identified as substances of concern, this *Guide* will serve as a useful resource for determining safer alternatives. DEC and our colleagues in other states and in the private sector see great value in creating a harmonized approach that will avoid the duplication of efforts.”

More retailers and manufacturers are recognizing the need to transition to safer substances. For instance, Wal-Mart and Target recently announced sustainable chemical or product standards that call for more ingredient disclosure, reductions in chemicals of concern, and substitution of safer materials.

Companies, such as Hewlett Packard, Staples, and Seventh Generation, have adopted the alternatives assessment process to improve the quality of their products while reducing the negative affects they may have on human health and the environment. Helen Holder, Corporate Material Selection Manager for Hewlett Packard (HP) has stated, “When replacing substances of concern, HP seeks to identify alternatives with a reduced risk of potential human health and environmental impacts, and that also meet our performance and cost criteria. A robust alternatives assessment approach is essential for analyzing potential replacement materials and technologies.”

Roger McFadden, Vice President and Senior Scientist, Staples, Inc. stated, “A growing number of businesses and consumers are asking their suppliers and retailers to identify and validate safer chemical alternatives in products and materials. The *IC2 Chemicals Alternatives Assessment Guide* offers companies a smart, valuable, pragmatic, scientific, and credible approach to identifying, differentiating, and specifying safer alternatives.”

Martin Wolf, Director, Product Sustainability and Authenticity, Seventh Generation stated, “The Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse *Alternatives Assessment Guide* is a comprehensive framework that helps companies to replace chemicals of concern with less hazardous alternatives without fear of a regrettable substitution. The *IC2 Guide* builds on the work of the US Environmental Protection Agency Design for the Environment, European Union REACH, and other alternatives frameworks to create state-of-the-art-guidance on safer chemical substitutions.”

Joel Tickner, Department of Community Health and Sustainability at the University of Massachusetts Lowell stated, “The *IC2 Guide* will provide a critical resource to governments and companies attempting to advance the adoption of safer chemicals and products. It provides critical information in a manner that will help support practitioners with significant experience and those who are just beginning to evaluate safer chemicals.”

Bobbi Chase Wilding, Deputy Director, Clean and Healthy New York said, “The Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse plays a vital role in fostering state collaboration to improve environmental health, and conducting alternatives assessments is a critical part of the process.

Analyses conducted by different states founded on strong common principles and strategies leverage shrinking state resources and serve the public good.”

Since 2011 the IC2’s members have collaborated on the *Guide*, which is designed to help state programs and others provide technical assistance to interested companies. It supports the goals of the IC2 by avoiding duplication among member states and enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of governments through collaboration and cooperation.

To view the *Guide*, visit [IC2 Alternatives Assessment Guide](http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/ic2/aaguidance.cfm)  
(<http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/ic2/aaguidance.cfm>)

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For more information: [www.newmoa.org/prevention/ic2/aaguidance.cfm](http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/ic2/aaguidance.cfm)

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**Broadcast version:**

The Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2) published today a *Guide* for assessing alternatives to toxic chemicals. This guidance provides companies with a voluntary process to consider the potential harm that substitute chemicals could have on health and the environment before being used in their products.

IC2 member states involved in the project worked with industry, academia, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties to produce the *Guide*.

The Guide is available at [www.newmoa.org/prevention/ic2/aaguidance.cfm](http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/ic2/aaguidance.cfm).

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