

Persistent PCB's Lose Obscurity

So why worry about a 5 part, per million (ppm) concentration of PCBs in fish — the

With over 100,000 synthetic chemical compounds currently in use and with about 30,000 new ones being introduced each year, why has this colorless odorless compound found such fame?

By the force of law, the 1977 Toxic Substances Control Act, all United States' production must cease by 1979 and all distribution terminate by mid-1979. Even after that time PCBs will be a problem. Because the molecules do not easily break down, and because the chemical is used in industrial products with long service lives, we can expect to hear about PCBs for 20 to 30 more years. The research and the clean-up (where possible) has just begun.

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