United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of
Toxic Substances

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EPA

The PCB Regulations Under TSCA:

Over 100 Questions and Answers to Help You Meet These Requirements

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U.S. Environmental Protection

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(If you want a copy of either of the Federal Register notices mentioned in this answer, call the TSCA Industry Assistance Office toll free: 800-424-9065, in Washington, D.C.: 554-1404.)

IMPORT/EXPORT

57. ***CAN PCBS BE EXPORTED OR IMPORTED? WHAT ABOUT PCB EQUIPMENT? WHAT ABOUT IMPORTING OR EXPORTING PCBS FOR DISPOSAL?***

Because TSCA considers the term "import" to be synonomous with "manufacture," no PCB Equipment can be imported after July 2, 1979, unless an exemption is obtained from EPA. Persons wishing to export PCBs for use must also file a TSCA section 12 export notice, and file an exemption petition, in accordance with the requirements of section 761.30(c), for processing and distribution in commerce. No PCBs may be exported until and unless EPA grants an exemption to export. (See the May 1, 1980 Federal Register in the Appendix; 45 FR 29115.)

The Open Border Policy for PCB disposal expired May 1, 1980; therefore, no PCBs may be exported or imported for disposal until new rules are in effect.

USES AUTHORIZED BY THE MAY 1979 RULE

USES IN HEAT TRANSFER SYSTEMS

58. ***ARE HEAT TRANSFER SYSTEMS REGULATED UNDER TSCA?***

PCBs have been used in heat transfer systems because of their high heat retention capacity. These systems are regulated under TSCA, and their use has been authorized through July 1, 1984 through a provision of the May 1979 PCB Ban Rule.

59. ***ARE THERE ANY CONDITIONS PLACED ON THEIR CONTINUED USE OUTSIDE OF FOOD PLANTS?***

Yes. (1) Heat transfer systems were required to be tested initially by November 1, 1979, and annually thereafter. All sampling must be performed at least three months after the most recent fluid refilling. When a test shows PCBs in concentrations below 50 ppm, all testing may cease. (2) Six months after the initial test of PCB concentration in the heat transfer system, heat transfer systems were required to be drained of the PCBs and refilled with fluid containing less than 50 ppm PCBs. (3) Heat transfer systems containing greater than 50 ppm PCBs cannot be used in the manufacture, or processing of any food, drug, cosmetic, or device as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA).

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