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Declaración de San Antonio sobre los retardantes de llama bromados y clorados

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La declaración es firmada por los científicos individuales y otros profesionales enlistados de manera separada más abajo. Por favor tome nota que los puntos de vista expresados son de los autores y firmantes; las afiliaciones institucionales se señalan sólo con el propósito de su identificación. Las abreviaciones y las notas de la Declaración Anotada están disponibles como material suplementario.

Nosotros, científicos de distintas disciplinas, declaramos lo siguiente:

1. Las Partes del Convenio de Estocolmo han adoptado medidas en torno a tres retardantes de llama bromados que aparecen en la lista del convenio para su eliminación a nivel mundial. Estas sustancias incluyen componentes del éter de pentabromodifenilo comercial y del éter de octabromodifenilo comercial, junto con el hexabromobifenilo. Otro retardante de llama bromado, el hexabromociclododecano, está siendo evaluado;
2. Muchos retardantes de llama bromados y clorados de uso común pueden ser transportados a grandes distancias en el medio ambiente;
3. Muchos retardantes de llama bromados y clorados parecen ser persistentes y bioacumulativos, causando la contaminación de la red alimentaria, incluyendo la leche materna;
4. No se cuenta con información adecuada sobre la toxicidad de muchos retardantes de llama bromados y clorados, pero los datos disponibles resultan preocupantes;
5. Muchos tipos distintos de retardantes de llama bromados y clorados han sido incorporados a diversos productos pese a que no se cuenta con información toxicológica exhaustiva;
6. Los retardantes de llama bromados y clorados presentes en una variedad de productos son liberados en el medio ambiente interior y exterior;
7. Los productos eléctricos y electrónicos que se encuentran cerca del final de su vida útil y al final de su vida útil constituyen una creciente preocupación debido al dumping en los países en desarrollo, que da como resultado el movimiento transfronterizo ilegal de sus elementos constitutivos peligrosos. Estos incluyen retardantes de llama bromados y clorados;

8. Casi todos los países en desarrollo y países con economías en transición carecen de la capacidad para manejar los residuos electrónicos en una forma ambientalmente correcta, lo que causa la liberación de sustancias peligrosas que dañan la salud humana y el medioambiente. Estas sustancias incluyen los retardantes de llama bromados y clorados;

9. Los retardantes de llama bromados y clorados pueden aumentar la toxicidad de los incendios y aún no se ha demostrado su beneficio general en materia de mejoramiento de la seguridad contra incendios;

10. Cuando los retardantes de llama bromados y clorados se queman se forman dioxinas y furanos altamente tóxicos;

Por lo tanto, estos datos respaldan lo siguiente:

11. Los retardantes de llama bromados y clorados, como clases de sustancias, causan preocupación por su persistencia, bioacumulación, transporte a largas distancias y toxicidad;

12. Se hace necesario mejorar la disponibilidad y el acceso a información sobre retardantes de llama bromados y clorados y otras sustancias químicas presentes en los productos de la cadena de suministro y a través de todo su ciclo de vida;

13. Los consumidores pueden cumplir un rol en la adopción de alternativas para los retardantes de llama dañinos si se les hace tomar conciencia de la presencia de tales sustancias, por ejemplo, a través del etiquetado de los productos;

14. El proceso de identificación de alternativas para los retardantes de llama debe incluir no solo productos químicos alternativos sino también cambios innovadores en el diseño de los productos, en los procesos industriales y en otras prácticas que no requieran el uso de ningún retardante de llama;

15. Es necesario hacer esfuerzos para garantizar que los retardantes de llama químicos corrientes y los alternativos no tengan propiedades peligrosas tales como mutagenicidad, carcinogenicidad o efectos adversos en los sistemas reproductivo, de desarrollo, endocrino, inmunológico o nervioso;

16. Cuando se soliciten exenciones para ciertas aplicaciones de los retardantes de llama, la parte que pide la exención debe proporcionar información que incluya por qué la exención es técnica o científicamente necesaria y por qué las alternativas potenciales no son técnica o científicamente viables; una descripción de procesos, productos, materiales o sistemas alternativos potenciales que eliminan la necesidad de la sustancia química; y una lista de las fuentes investigadas;

17. Los residuos que contengan retardantes de llama con características de Contaminante Orgánico Persistente (COP), incluyendo productos y artículos, deben eliminarse en forma tal que el contenido de contaminantes orgánicos persistentes sea destruido o irreversiblemente transformado de modo que no exhiba las características de los contaminantes orgánicos persistentes;

18. No debe permitirse que los retardantes de llama con características de COP sean sometidos a operaciones de eliminación que puedan dar como resultado la recuperación, reciclaje, rescate, reutilización directa o usos alternativos de las sustancias;

19. Los residuos que contienen retardantes de llama con propiedades de COP no deben ser transportados a través de fronteras internacionales a menos de que sea para eliminarlos en forma tal que el contenido de contaminantes orgánicos persistentes sea destruido o irreversiblemente transformado;

20. Es importante considerar aspectos de tutela del producto (stewardship) y de responsabilidad ampliada del productor en la gestión del ciclo de vida de los productos que contengan retardantes de llama con propiedades de COP, incluyendo productos electrónicos y eléctricos.

NOTA del traductor: El documento original con lista de firmantes y un amplio material anexo con las referencias científicas y comentarios en cada punto de la declaración se pueden consultar en la página web de IPEN en

<http://www.ipen.org/ipenweb/documents/work%20documents/ehpembarg%20sas%20101023fi.pdf>

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