Introduce yourself (name, job title, organization and country) in the chat section.

Only the presenter and facilitator will speak. Any comments or questions from attendees should be typed in the chat section.

Please kindly keep you microphone muted and cameras off during the discussion.

NOTE:
If you are having technical issues, please join the Chemicals in Products WhatsApp group, using this link, and we will assist you:
https://chat.whatsapp.com/DVwGix7x04d1Q9b5usaJcr

Discussion 3:

Topic: Managing PFAS as a Chemical Class in the Textile Sector.

- Date: 10th December 2020
- Time: 16:00pm – 17:30pm (GMT+2)
- Presenter: Yiliqi, National Resource Defense Council
- Facilitator: Andrea Rother, University of Cape Town
- Chair: Maxine Brassell, MPH student, University of Cape Town
Chemicals in Products
Community of Practice

Discussion 3:
Managing PFAS as a Chemical Class in the Textiles Sector

PRESENTER

Yiliqi
National Resource Defense Council
Textile industry, as one of the priority sectors SAICM focuses on, uses huge amount of chemicals across the production stages to achieve various appearance, quality, and functions.

PFAS as one large chemical class that is toxic, persistent, mobile, and accumulative are widely used in this sector. With growing global attention and efforts on eliminating PFAS, a class-based approach is considered efficient and effective.
• Identify the best approach to reducing PFAS exposure and pollution associated with the textile sector
  • Exchange the importance of managing PFAS as a chemical class in the textile industry
  • Share accomplishments, challenges, and recommendations
Background to Question 1:

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are:

- a large family of thousands of synthetic chemicals that are widely used throughout society and found in the environment
- extremely persistent “forever chemicals”
- toxic and harmful at extremely low doses
- highly mobile: spread quickly throughout the environment and cause environmental and health issues globally
- Extreme persistence and potential toxicity make all PFAS suspect, including the short-chain PFAS that are used as alternatives to substitute well studied long-chain PFAS like PFOS and PFOA
Question 1:

• How are PFAS actively monitored and managed in your country, regions, or sector? What have been the accomplishments and challenges in your related work?

• If you have any questions regarding the class-based approach, please put them in the chat.

This question will be discussed for 25 minutes. Please use chat only, mute your microphone, and turn your video off. Thank you!

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PFAS are emitted into the environment throughout a product's life cycle, including:

- Chemical production
- Product manufacturing
- Distribution
- Use
- Disposal
- Recycling
Question 2:

- Who are the stakeholders involved in managing PFAS emissions and exposure either from applying PFAS in the manufacturing process or from using a product containing PFAS?
- What actions have these stakeholders undertaken to deal with this issue?

This question will be discussed for 25 minutes.
Please use chat only, mute your microphone, and turn your video off.
Thank you!

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Background to Question 3:

• PFAS are widely applied to textile products to achieve water-, oil-, and stain-repellent
• Some PFAS use in the textile sector is deemed not essential
• Safe alternative exist for achieving certain functions
• Critical exemption
Question 3: Essential use assessment

- Which product functions that PFAS provide are essential in your country?
- List which safer alternatives are available in your country. What are the barriers to eliminating the use of PFAS in textile products?
THANK YOU for attending the Chemicals in Products CoP Discussion

Please fill out the following survey to give feedback on today’s discussion:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NUNFkk5Wz0ywsCREW4wD92pVK-1gQzNHlYW4qca1WNUM1Q4Mkl5NFdQUlFaSldMWTFOOVQ0JIMyQlQCN0PWcu

This is our final discussion for 2020!

Our next discussion will take place in 2021.

All resources and summaries of previous CiP CoP discussions are available at the following link:
https://saicmknowledge.org/topic/community-practice

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