

California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC)
May 2011 Update

CIHC Highlights:

1. Legislative activity remains high. Highlights include the following:

- CIHC submitted comments on Senate Bill 178 (Simitian) which would authorize the Green Ribbon Science Panel (GRSP) to review regulations proposed for adoption under the provisions regulating chemicals of concern in consumer products and to make recommendations to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) on related scientific and technical matters. While CIHC supports the broad goals of the Green Chemistry Initiative and will continue to work with DTSC and other stakeholders to help spur green chemical innovation, it has concerns with the fact that the science stakeholder process does not appear to allow input equally from all interested parties in a format that is open to the public.

As currently constituted, the GRSP's role is to "provide advice on scientific matters, chemical policy recommendations and implementation strategies." CIHC believes that the GRSP should continue to serve in an advisory capacity, as it was envisioned in the original statute, because it is a consultative body and not a quasi-judicial body. In the event the GRSP's role is amplified to review and make recommendations on regulations, a transparent and public process by which stakeholders and other interested parties can formally comment on any recommendations should be established. The proposed SB 178 does not presently reflect a process which enables stakeholder input in a transparent manner.

- CIHC submitted (and personally met with the legislative aide responsible for its draft) formal comments on Assembly Member Monning's proposed bill AB 553 regarding the rights of workers to be protected from exposure to hazardous substances and toxic materials in the workplace. The national AIHA, in parallel, also submitted formal comments on AB 553 after having its Risk Assessment Committee review the proposed Bill's provisions (national AIHA comments posted on CIHC's website). CIHC worked with national's Risk Assessment Committee on this issue. Of greatest concern was the proposed provision to use the most conservative risk assessment when developing exposure guidelines. As of 5/27/11, AB 553 is being held under submission in the Assembly Appropriations Committee after a second hearing. Typically, this means the bill is dead.
- CIHC submitted comments to the Honorable Daniel Inouye in support of continued NIOSH funding for ERCs across the country. As presently proposed, some \$24.3 million would be eliminated in federal funding for the Educational and Research Centers (ERCs) with some 17 university based ERCs and 87 interdisciplinary graduate programs at risk.
- CIHC continues to follow the broader Green Chemistry Initiative developments (moving forward quickly) and provides input as appropriate. One of our CIHC board members made a presentation on California's "Green Chemistry Regulatory Policy Changes and Challenges" at the recent Portland, OR, AIHce. A Roundtable at the AIHce, sponsored by the national

AIHA's Product Stewardship Committee, was devoted to Green Chemistry and Industrial Hygiene Opportunities. In addition, CIHC members, along with others, have been working with the national AIHA on its Green Chemistry position paper.

- CIHC met with the bill's author legislative aide concerning SB 432. As currently written, SB 432 would require fitted sheets and long handle housekeeping tools for all CA lodging establishments regardless of ergonomic risk factor exposure.
2. The CA EH&S Conference, a joint effort with ASSE, was held in Anaheim, CA on April 13-14, 2011. It boasted a good turnout, with close to half of the 120 attendees attending the Industrial Hygiene /Environmental sessions. The Industrial Hygiene /Environmental set of speakers were recruited by CIHC, the Northern California- AIHA local section and the Orange County-AIHA local sections. CIHC moderated these sessions as well. The CIHC committed to sponsoring three roundtables (Nano-materials; Global Chemical Regulatory Shifts, with an emphasis on Green Chemistry; and Risk Assessment). The Northern California Section sponsored the session on Emergency Response, while Orange County took the lead on NIOSH's Prevention Through Design initiative.
 3. Plans for the December 5-7, 2011 CIHC Conference in San Francisco are underway. Additional details will follow shortly.
 4. Members of the CIHC board are meeting with members of several coalitions and trade organizations to discuss the changing Cal-OSHA and Cal-EPA landscape. A better understanding of the changes and impact on our profession, along with views as to how best to weigh in on key legislative and regulatory issues, is the desired outcome. As part of this process, CIHC board members have requested a meeting with the new heads of both Cal-OSHA and Cal-EPA's DTSC.
 5. Please go to www.cihconline.com for CIHC Board members and contact information, meeting minutes, conference proceedings, formal submittals and links to key resources.

Respectfully submitted,

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