

American Apparel & Footwear Association

Hello Kara,

Please find comments from the American Apparel & Footwear Association on the Children's Safe Products Act Reporting Rule attached.

Thank you,

Kristen Kern

AAFA - Government Relations Representative

American Apparel & Footwear Association

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May 12, 2017

Ms. Kara Steward
Washington Department of Ecology
Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

RE: Children's Safe Products Reporting Rule Update – WAC 173-334

Dear Ms. Steward:

On behalf of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), I am providing these comments in regard to the proposed update to the Children's Safe Products Reporting Rule. This update would amend the list of Chemicals of High Concern for Children (CHCC) by adding 21 chemicals and removing 3 chemicals.

AAFA is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear, travel goods, and other sewn products companies, and their suppliers, which compete in the global market. Representing more than 1,000 world famous name brands, our membership includes 340 companies, drawn from throughout the supply chain. AAFA is the trusted public policy and political voice of the apparel and footwear industry, its management and shareholders, its four million U.S. workers, and its contribution of \$361 billion in annual U.S. retail sales.

AAFA represents many companies that make and sell children's products in the state of Washington. In order to comply with the reporting rule, these companies will be required to test their products for the chemicals on the list of CHCC. This testing, while often central to consumer safety, can be an unnecessary burden on companies if there is not adequate scientific evidence to indicate that a chemical poses a risk to the consumer. As such, when considering the addition of 21 new chemicals to the CHCC, AAFA urges the Washington Department of Ecology to adhere to chapter 173-334 WAC section 070, which states that in order for a chemical to be considered for addition to or removal from the list of CHCC, "credible peer-reviewed scientific information" is required.

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Additionally, in considering the burden that this reporting rule may place on companies, AAFA supports the addition of a clause in WAC 173-334-100, which states that “a manufacturer of a children's product containing a CHCC above the de minimis level may request an extension for submission of the report required on January 31, 2019, if this would be the first report required by the manufacturer and the manufacturer will be reporting more than one product or chemical.”

In conclusion, for the points outlined above, AAFA urges the use of credible, scientific data and supports the creation of an extension process for chemical reporting.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please contact Kristen Kern of my staff at 202-853-9080 if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Rick Helfenbein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Rick Helfenbein
President and CEO