

Do you import or manufacture? FIND OUT ABOUT THE NEW SUBSTANCES NOTIFICATION REGULATIONS

If you import or manufacture new substances such as micro-organisms, you may be required to notify these substances pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA 1999) and the **New Substances Notification Regulations (NSNR)**. CEPA 1999 requires that the prescribed information under the NSNR be submitted to the Minister of the Environment prior to the import or manufacture of new substances. The following information may help you to determine your responsibilities under CEPA 1999.

Micro-organisms used in the following activities may be subject to the NSNR:

- Bioremediation by bioaugmentation (application of micro-organisms; either a pure culture, defined mixture or a natural consortia)
- Experimental field studies, site specific applications and fully commercialized operations
- Microbial inoculation of industrial effluents

There are many substances such as chemicals, polymers, and products of biotechnology used in environmental industrial applications. CEPA 1999 and the NSNR regulate these substances if they are manufactured in or imported into Canada. The types of regulated substances include:

- Micro-organisms (both natural and engineered)
 - Bacteria (pure cultures, defined mixtures & natural consortia)
 - Fungi and yeast
 - Viruses and viral particles
 - Protozoa and algae
- Biochemicals and Biopolymers (such as enzymes, surfactants and other products of micro-organisms)
- Chemicals and Polymers

See reverse for details on the NSNR and contact information

We all benefit when you comply with the law

NEW SUBSTANCES NOTIFICATION REGULATIONS (NSNR)

Any substance that does not appear on the DSL is subject to the NSN Regulations.

WHY SUCH REGULATIONS?

As part of the "cradle to grave" management approach for toxic substances laid out in the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, the **New Substances Notification Regulations (NSNR)** are an integral part of the federal government's national pollution prevention strategy.

The CEPA 1999 approach to the control of new substances is both proactive and preventative, employing a **pre-import or pre-manufacture notification and assessment process**. When this process identifies a new substance that may pose a risk to health or the environment, the Act empowers Environment Canada to intervene prior to or during the earliest stages of its introduction into Canada. This ability to act early makes the new substances program a unique and essential component of the federal management of toxic substances.

WHAT IS A SUBSTANCE?

A substance is any matter, whether organic or inorganic, animate or inanimate.

WHAT IS A NEW SUBSTANCE?

A new substance is any substance that does not appear on the Domestic Substances List (DSL) of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*.

WHAT IS THE DOMESTIC SUBSTANCES LIST?

The DSL is a compilation of all known substances that were in Canadian commerce between 1984 and 1986 or that were added to the DSL in accordance with CEPA 1999. In certain circumstances, the Minister of the Environment may amend the DSL by adding or deleting substances according to CEPA 1999.

WHERE CAN I GET A COPY OF THE DSL?

The DSL can be searched on the Green Lane at the following address:

www.ec.gc.ca/substances

The information presented here is not exhaustive. The intent is to highlight relevant points in the New Substances Regulations established by CEPA 1999. In case of a discrepancy between this bulletin, CEPA 1999 and the *New Substances Notification Regulations*, the legislation and the Regulations will prevail. Please refer to the Regulations for complete details on the requirements.

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ARE THERE NEW SUBSTANCES THAT ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE NSNR?

Yes. Substances regulated under any other Federal Acts that require notice prior to import or manufacture and that require an assessment of toxicity are not subject to the NSNR. These Acts are listed on Schedule 2 and 4 of CEPA 1999.

I WANT TO MANUFACTURE OR IMPORT A NEW SUBSTANCE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Please consult us in advance of initiating the manufacture or importation process of a new substance. You will need information on the composition and use of the new substance for you to determine how to fulfill your obligation under CEPA 1999 and the NSNR.

You must fulfill the requirements of the NSNR before manufacturing or importing a new substance. Enforcement of the NSNR will be conducted in accordance with the Compliance and Enforcement Policy of CEPA 1999 (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/ele-ale/index.asp>)

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

To find out more on the NSNR provisions, to consult the DSL, or to obtain instructions on how to complete the notification, visit the Green Lane Web site at the following address:

www.ec.gc.ca/substances

WHO DO I CONTACT?

National Office (Gatineau, Hull Sector):
Telephone: 1-800-567-1999 (within Canada)
(819) 953-7156 (outside Canada)
Fax: (819) 953-7155
E-mail: NSN-Infoline@ec.gc.ca