

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW TOXIC LAW

(What it means to you)

Under the legislation, EPA can require testing of new and existing chemicals that might present an unreasonable risk to health or the environment. A manufacturer is required to give 90 days notice prior to commercial production of the intention to manufacture a new chemical substance or a new use for an existing substance.

Here are some of the major provisions of the Legislation which are under EPA authorization:

- 1) Require manufacturer to test the substances so that their effect on health and the environment may be evaluated
- 2) Impose delays or restrictions on the manufacturer of a new chemical substance if there is adequate information to evaluate the effects
- 3) Adopt rules prohibiting the manufacture, processing, or distribution of a chemical substance or mixture, to require labeling telling possible hazards with use, or to regulate the manufacture manner of disposal of substances that are suspected to contribute to unreasonable risk
- 4) Require manufacturers and processors to submit reports and maintain records concerning the product's adverse health or environment effects along with providing available health and safety data
- 5) Manufacturer must immediately notify EPA if one of their substances contributes to unreasonable risk
- 6) Enforce the bill through inspectors and court actions when a manufacturer is found in violation
- 7) Permit citizens to bring suits to obtain compliance with the bill
- 8) Federal district courts can order EPA to initiate rulemaking proceedings in response to citizens petitions
- 9) Provide ways for all interested persons to have an opportunity to participate in the EPA's rule-making procedures
- 10) Provide for continuing evaluation of the effects on employment of actions taken under the bill