

Safer Choice Labels for Industrial Products

November 20, 2024



Katy Wolf, Ph.D.
Consultant

Proposed Project

- ◎ Project proposed to try to obtain EPA Safer Choice (SC) labels for more industrially relevant Products
 - > Part of EPA grant to greenUP! and WNC
- ◎ Range of different industrial products
 - > Water-based cleaners
 - > Soy based cleaners
 - > Safer hydrocarbon
 - > Low-VOC, low toxicity industrial handwipe solvent
 - > Low-VOC, low toxicity auto aerosol cleaner
 - > Graffiti removers
 - > Dry ice blasting

Project Activities

- ◉ Contacted and worked with many different suppliers
- ◉ Collaborated with PPRC on grant funding
- ◉ Did preliminary work on several different types of products
- ◉ Worked on formulating new products
- ◉ Provided comments to EPA on SC program

Findings to Date

- ◎ SC program designed specifically for consumer products and institutional products
- ◎ Evaluation too expensive and onerous for medium sized and small companies
- ◎ Most industrial products would not be able to obtain a label
- ◎ Most industrial companies not willing to pay for evaluation
- ◎ Most industrial companies not willing to go through evaluation even if it is paid for

Example of Failed Effort

- ◎ EPA SC had listed MEK as a green circle solvent which can have unlimited use in a product
- ◎ Acetone is lower in toxicity than MEK, is not a VOC and is used extensively in products in areas where smog is a problem
- ◎ Acetone is currently classified as a yellow triangle solvent which has a limit of 10% use in products
- ◎ I asked EPA to reclassify acetone since it is a less toxic and non-VOC choice than MEK
- ◎ Instead of giving acetone green circle status, EPA reclassified MEK as a yellow triangle solvent

Planned Future Activities

- ◎ Finish soy product CleanGredients addition
- ◎ Proposed adding two solvents to SCIL
- ◎ Hold three or four webinars with case studies
 - > Dry ice blasting
 - > Nanotechnology coating
 - > Low-VOC, low toxicity brake cleaner/industrial handwipe solvent
 - > Soy products

Contact Information

Dr. Katy Wolf

Cell (818) 371-9260

katywolfirta@gmail.com

www.irta.us