

EPA Identifies Styrene as Chemical for Risk Evaluation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act Program.

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Today the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) named styrene as one of five substances considered for classification as a Priority for Risk Evaluation under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) program.

It is important to note that while EPA has added styrene to its Risk Evaluation program, it is not banning the use of styrene or issuing any limits on its current use.

By EPA adding styrene to this Risk Evaluation program, there are a series of steps outlined in the statute that must occur. This act allows EPA a three-to-four-year window for a risk evaluation program. Following this evaluation, there will be an additional two years to finalize a risk management standard. By this timeline, it can be reasonably forecasted that there will be an EPA standard in 2030.

It is also important to note that the outcome of actions of the new Administration's policies and current court challenges to previous EPA Risk Assessment action could shape the schedule for the styrene assessment, as well as any limits under TSCA. However, it is to be noted that unless Congress amends the Act itself, the law would require EPA to issue some form of regulation that would focus on any unreasonable risks associated with styrene.

Thus, NASSCO will continue to participate in its ongoing meetings with EPA to actively represent the CIPP industry. In addition, NASSCO will be partnering with other consortiums in efforts to provide a well-organized and focused partnership in response to EPA requests for data as it moves the risk assessment process forward.

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The purpose of risk evaluations under TSCA is to determine if a chemical substance presents an unreasonable risk of injury to health, or the environment, without consideration of costs or non-risk factors, including unreasonable risk to potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations identified as relevant to the risk evaluation by EPA.