

**Before the United States Environmental Protection Agency
Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed New Collections; Comment Request;
TSCA Existing Chemical Risk Evaluation and Management; Generic ICR for Interviews
and Focus Groups (EPA ICR No. 2584.01) and Generic ICR
for Surveys (EPA ICR No. 2585.01)
84 Fed. Reg. 38,029 (Aug. 5, 2019)
Dockets EPA-HQ-OPPT-2018-0611 and EPA-HQ-OPPT-2018-0612**

Comments of the Chemical Users Coalition

The Chemical Users Coalition (“CUC”) appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (“EPA’s” and “the Agency’s”) proposed collection of information to inform the Agency’s evaluation and risk management of existing chemicals as required under Section 6 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (“TSCA”). CUC is an association of companies from diverse industries interested in chemical regulatory policy from the perspective of entities that typically acquire and use, rather than manufacture or import, chemical substances.¹ CUC encourages regulators to develop and implement requirements to protect health and the environment in a manner that enables the regulated community to pursue technological innovation simultaneously with sustainable economic development in the United States. This is critical in the area of chemical regulatory policy, which necessarily addresses emerging information about health and environmental risk.

CUC supports EPA’s efforts to actively engage stakeholders in the context of its efforts to identify the conditions of use of an existing substance as it performs risk evaluation and risk management analyses. The 2016 amendments to TSCA make it incumbent on the Agency to be certain the information on which it relies for risk evaluation and risk management determinations represents the best and most complete information available. It is reasonable for EPA to consider surveys and interviews in particular to be among the mechanisms that should be available to collect pertinent information. CUC’s members would like to be considered among the entities that EPA personnel would contact to participate in such interviews, focus groups, and surveys.

CUC encourages EPA when undertaking such efforts also to ensure the involvement of stakeholders with practical experiences in the acquisition, handling and use of chemical substances in relevant manufacturing operations. The Agency also should seek to obtain representation in EPA’s information collections efforts by a variety of commercial enterprises including chemical users, processors, distributors, manufacturers of formulated product and articles, and entities that might retrieve and reuse and/or recycle formulated products and manufactured articles. EPA also should not overlook consulting with technical experts, as well as members of the general public who may be knowledgeable in a field or trade germane to understanding the manner in which chemical substances are manufactured, processed,

¹ The members of CUC are Airbus S.A.S., The Boeing Company, HP Incorporated, IBM Company, Intel Corporation, Lockheed Martin Corporation, and United Technologies Corporation.

distributed, and used in various enterprises. Finally, EPA should be willing to seek input from others who may have expressed long-standing interests in EPA evaluation and risk management activities affecting existing chemical substances to gather a full understanding of the ways in which a chemical substance might impact business enterprises and communities. This will help EPA obtain the information necessary to build a robust record sufficient to support the Agency's evaluation and risk management decisions.

CUC recommends the information collection activities undertaken should be documented in the record of any related rulemakings to ensure transparency in a manner that also takes into account TSCA's protections for confidential business information and considerations for an individual's privacy.

Again, CUC appreciates EPA's continuing interest in soliciting public input on its implementation of the amended TSCA and, as noted, would be willing to participate in the Agency's information collection activities when appropriate.