



Expansion of the Safer Choice and Design for the Environment Programs

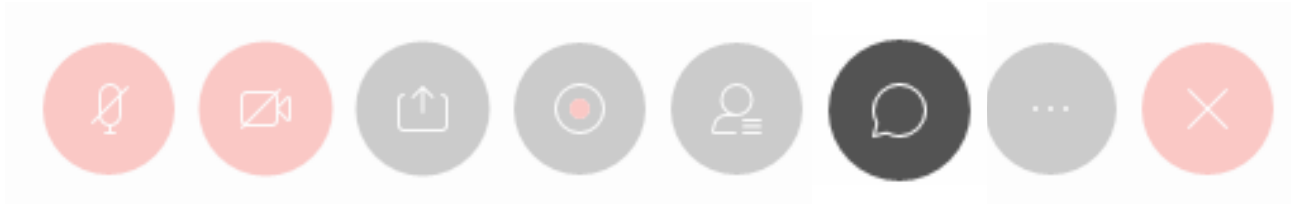
Listening Session

August 29, 2023

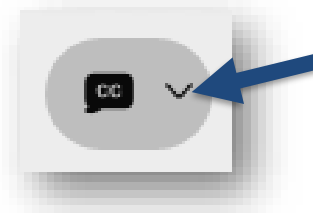
Webinar Housekeeping



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Expansion of the Safer Choice and Design for the Environment Programs

Listening Session
August 29, 2023

Why we're here



Programs help people find products with ingredients that meet EPA criteria for human health & environmental effects



Leverage existing tools to **benefit human health & the environment**, including **addressing PFAS** in products



Listen and respond to **stakeholder interest** in expanding these Programs into other types of products

Background: Safer Choice & DfE



EPA Safer Choice Program



- Voluntary EPA certification program designed to
 - Make it easier to find products with safer ingredients
 - Incentivize brands to make products with safer ingredients
- Draws on EPA expertise to evaluate potential hazards of ingredients in chemical-based products
 - Focus on safer chemical ingredients
 - With provisions on performance, packaging, and ingredient disclosure
 - Verifies and reviews **all** ingredients up the supply chain
 - Nearly 2,000 certified products
 - ~400 Fragrance-free



The Safer Choice label



- Rapidly communicates to consumers
- Designed in consultation with FTC
- EPA focus group data shows consumers understand meaning of “safer”
 - Decreased exposure to harsh or harmful chemicals
 - Still contains inherent risks (i.e., from improper use)



Safer Choice-certified products



■ Household & Facility Cleaning

- All-Purpose Cleaners
- Appliance Cleaners & Rinse Aids
- Automatic Dishwasher Products
- Carpet Cleaners & Floor Care Products
- Degreasers
- Dish Detergents & Soaps
- Granite/Stone/Wood/Leather Cleaners
- Hand Soaps
- Kitchen/Countertop Cleaners
- Laundry Care Products
- Odor Removers
- Pet Care Products
- Toilet Bowl Cleaners
- Tub/Tile Cleaners
- Window/Glass Cleaners

■ Automotive & Outdoor

- Aircraft Cleaning Products
- Athletic Field Paint
- Car Care Products
- Deicers
- Dust Control Products
- HVAC Maintenance
- Marine/RV Cleaners
- Outdoor Furniture Cleaners
- Parts Washers

Design for the Environment (DfE)



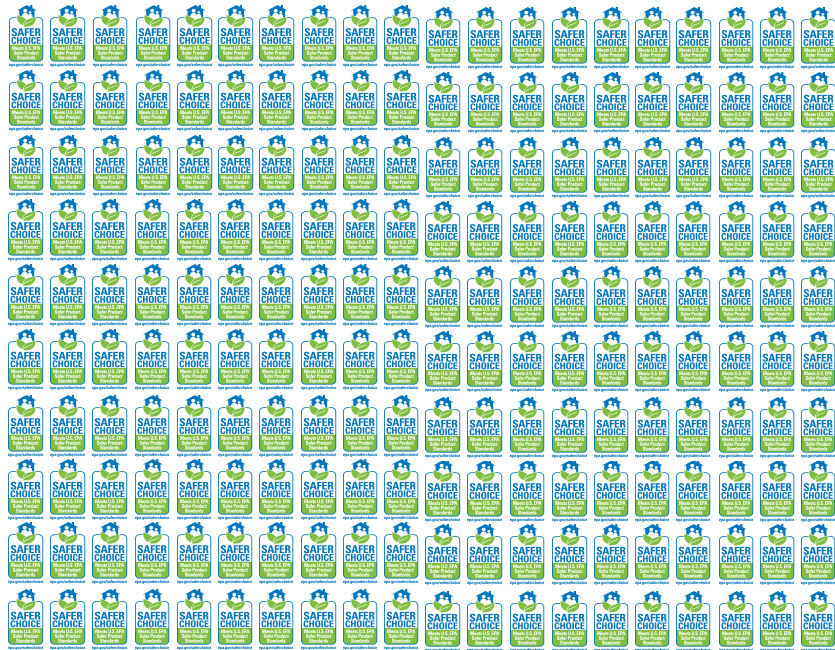
- The DfE logo helps people find antimicrobial products like disinfectants that meet
 - Health and safety standards of the normal pesticide registration process required by FIFRA
 - Other rigorous criteria for effects on human health and the environment, as described in the Safer Choice and DfE Standard
- About 50 certified products



Programs by the numbers



Nearly 2,000 certified products



More than 350 partner companies



837 pre-approved ingredients



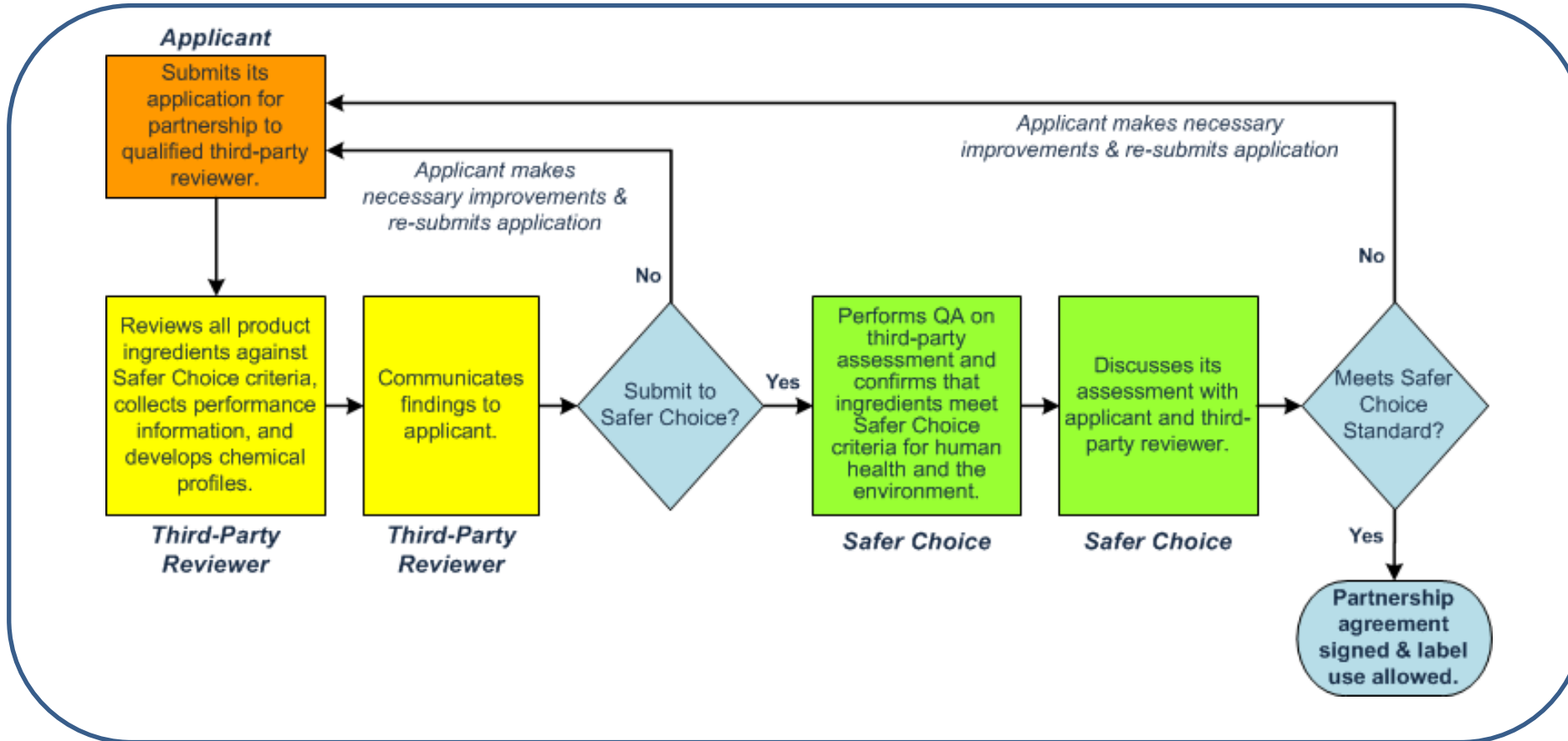
~200 new products certified each year



Certification & Review Process



Product review process



EPA has final review & grants certification.

Third Party Reviewers
Gradient
NSF International
ToxServices LLC

The Safer Choice & DfE Standard



To be Safer Choice or DfE-certified, products must:

- Meet the Safer Choice & DfE Standard
 - **Every** chemical ingredient is evaluated against and must meet human health & environmental safety criteria
 - Product level requirements include performance, packaging, and ingredient disclosure
- Be covered under a Partnership Agreement between the manufacturer & EPA
 - Renewed every 3 years
- Undergo annual audits

Safer Chemical Criteria



Every chemical is evaluated under relevant criteria

- **No *de minimis* for added ingredients**
- Impurities, residuals, preservatives, & stabilizers are all considered
- Every material must be disclosed & meet criteria

Safer Chemical Criteria (cont.)



A toxicological profile for a single chemical ingredient includes available data on:

- Physical-chemical properties
- Toxicity information on required endpoints

Human Health Effects	Environmental Fate & Toxicity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carcinogenicity• Mutagenicity• Reproductive & developmental toxicity• Acute toxicity• Repeated dose toxicity• Neurotoxicity• Sensitization & irritation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aquatic toxicity• Biodegradation• Bioaccumulation

Example: Acute mammalian toxicity criteria



- For acute mammalian toxicity, data must demonstrate that chemical toxicity thresholds are above criteria values

Route (units)	Median Lethal Dose/Concentration
Oral, LD50 (mg/kg bw)	2,000
Dermal, LD50 (mg/kg bw)	2,000
Inhalation, LC50 (vapor/gas) (mg/L)	20
Inhalation, LC50 (dust/mist/fumes) (mg/L)	5

Data evaluation



- EPA scientists review every chemical ingredient against human and environmental health criteria and make final safety determinations
- Data sources:
 - Measured data on the specific chemical
 - Measured data from a suitable analog
 - Estimated data from appropriate models
 - New approach methodologies (NAMs)

Potential Expansion of Safer Choice and DfE



Current Scope of the Programs



- Both Safer Choice and DfE rely on the same criteria, as described in the Safer Choice & DfE Standard, based on similar product uses
 - Safer Choice
 - Household & facility cleaning products
 - Automotive cleaning products
 - Outdoor cleaning products
 - DfE
 - Antimicrobial products such as sanitizers and disinfectants
- EPA addresses PFAS in formulated consumer products through these programs, enhancing transparency and consumer choice

Public comment period



- EPA is accepting public comment on which additional product categories EPA should certify and why
 - Comments must be received by **Sept 11, 2023**
 - Submit comments via docket **EPA–HQ–OPPT–2023–0311** at www.regulations.gov
- Additional instructions are available at www.epa.gov/dockets
- EPA will publish a response to comments

Considerations for additional sectors



1. **What is the potential to benefit human health & the environment through compliance with the Safer Choice & DfE Standard?**
2. What are the functional uses of chemicals typically used in this sector?
3. Are some of the chemicals used in this sector included in the Safer Chemical Ingredients List?
4. How are products in this sector disposed of?
5. Are there other considerations for this sector that make it a good candidate for Safer Choice and/or DfE certification?
 - For example, a sector with products that have very high potential for direct and frequent exposures or which frequently contain chemicals of high concern (e.g., PFAS)?

Audience feedback and questions



- Which additional product categories could the Safer Choice and DfE programs expand into and why?
- What should EPA consider as factors in deciding what additional product categories should be considered for Safer Choice versus DfE?
- Please submit written comments after the listening session.

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