

2026 Annual Plan for Chemical Risk Evaluations Under TSCA

March 3, 2026

Background

The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (Public Law [P.L.114-182])¹ amended the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to enhance public health and chemical safety by providing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with significant authorities and obligations. TSCA section 26(n) requires that EPA publish an annual plan at the beginning of each calendar year that—(A) identifies the chemical substances for which risk evaluations are expected to be initiated or completed that year and the resources necessary for their completion; (B) describes the status of each risk evaluation that has been initiated but not yet completed; and (C) if the schedule for completion of a risk evaluation has changed, includes an updated schedule for that risk evaluation. This plan fulfills the requirement of TSCA section 26(n) for 2026.

Chemical Substances Currently Undergoing Risk Evaluation

As required under TSCA section 6(b), EPA must conduct a prioritization process to determine if chemical substances are a high- or low-priority for risk evaluation. A high-priority substance may present unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment because of a potential hazard and a potential route of exposure, and a low-priority substance is one for which a risk evaluation is not warranted at the time. At the end of the prioritization process, if a chemical is designated as a high-priority substance, then EPA will initiate a risk evaluation for that chemical substance. EPA will then publish a draft scope for public comment, followed by a final scope document within six months of initiating the risk evaluation.

*High-Priority Chemical Risk Evaluations Initiated in 2019*²

In December 2019, EPA finalized high-priority substance designations for 20 chemical substances and commenced risk evaluations for the chemicals. The agency finalized scopes for these chemicals in August and September 2020. On November 22, 2024, EPA entered a consent decree that set a schedule for EPA to complete the final risk evaluations for the 20 chemical substances initiated in 2019. Under the consent decree, the deadlines for these final risk evaluations range from the end of calendar year 2024 to early 2027. As of January 1, 2026, EPA is currently working on risk evaluations for 1,2-dichloroethane, o- and p-dichlorobenzene, 4,4'-(1-methylethylidene)bis[2, 6-dibromophenol] (TBBPA), phosphoric acid triphenyl ester (TPP), phthalic anhydride, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, trans-1,2-dichloroethylene, 1,2-dichloropropane, and 1,3,4,6,7,8-Hexahydro-4,6,6,7,8,8-hexamethylcyclopenta [g]-2-benzopyran (HHCB).³⁴⁵⁶⁷

*Manufacturer-Requested Risk Evaluations (MRREs)*⁸

¹ See <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-06/documents/bills-114hr2576eah.pdf>.

² See <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/chemicals-undergoing-risk-evaluation-under-tsca>.

⁷ EPA has completed the final risk evaluations for tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP) in September 2024, formaldehyde in December 2024, and 1,3-butadiene, butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP), dicyclohexyl phthalate (DCHP), di-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP), di-isobutyl phthalate (DIBP), and 1,1-dichloroethane in December 2025.

⁸ See <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/list-manufacturer-requested-risk-evaluations-under-tsca>. EPA completed final manufacturer requested risk evaluations for DIDP and DINP in December 2024, pursuant to a separate consent decree. See Consent Decree Regarding Manufacturer-Requested Evaluation Deadlines, *Community In-Power and Development Assoc., Inc. v. EPA*, No. 1:23-cv-02715, Dkt. No. 40 (D.D.C. Nov. 22, 2024).

In March 2020, EPA received a manufacturer request to conduct a risk evaluation of octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (D4). In October 2020, EPA granted the request based on public comment and EPA's review of the request. In March 2022, EPA released a draft scope document for D4 for 45-day public review. The draft D4 risk evaluation was released for public comment in September 2025 and underwent peer review by the Science Advisory Council on Chemicals (SACC) on December 2-5, 2025.

In November 2020, EPA received an updated manufacturer request to conduct a risk evaluation of four chemical substances as a single category, the octahydro-tetramethyl-naphthalenyl-ethanone (OTNE) chemical category. Because this request was submitted under TSCA section 6(h) and prior to the finalization of the EPA's 2017 risk evaluation rule and associated requirements for a manufacturer requested risk evaluation submission, EPA is still working with the manufacturer to ensure the agency has the information necessary to perform a risk evaluation.

High-Priority Chemical Risk Evaluations Initiated in 2024

In December 2023, EPA announced that it was initiating the process to prioritize five chemicals for potential risk evaluation under TSCA.⁹ On December 18, 2024, EPA finalized the designations of these chemical substances as High-Priority Substances for risk evaluation. On January 16, 2025, EPA published the draft scope document for vinyl chloride.

⁹ <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/prioritization-actions-under-tsca>.

Status of Chemical Risk Evaluations Currently Underway

Table 1. Status of chemicals undergoing risk evaluation in 2026.

Chemical Name	Final Scope (Publication date/estimated no later than date)	Draft Risk Evaluation (Publication date/estimated no later than date)	Final Risk Evaluation (Publication date/estimated no later than date)
Chemicals Initiated in 2019*			
1,2-Dichloroethane (also known as Ethylene Dichloride)	August 27, 2020	November 2025	April 2026**
o-Dichlorobenzene	August 27, 2020	June 2026	February 2027***
p-Dichlorobenzene	August 27, 2020	June 2026	February 2027***
4,4'-(1-Methylethylidene)bis[2, 6-dibromophenol] (TBBPA)	August 27, 2020	August 2026	February 2027***
Phosphoric acid, triphenyl ester (TPP)	August 27, 2020	August 2026	February 2027***
Phthalic anhydride	August 27, 2020	June 2026	February 2027***
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	August 27, 2020	August 2026	February 2027***
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	August 27, 2020	August 2026	February 2027***
1,2-Dichloropropane	August 27, 2020	August 2026	February 2027***
1,3,4,6,7,8-Hexahydro-4,6,6,7,8,8-hexamethylcyclopenta [g]-2-benzopyran (HHCB)	August 27, 2020	June 2026	February 2027***
Ethylene dibromide	August 27, 2020	August 2026	February 2027***
Granted MRREs			
Octamethylcyclotetra-siloxane (D4)	March 7, 2022	September 2025	September 2026
Chemicals Initiated in 2024			
Acrylonitrile	TBD	June 2027	June 2028
Acetaldehyde	TBD	June 2027	June 2028
Benzenamine (a.k.a. Aniline)	TBD	June 2027	June 2028
MBOCA [4,4'-Mehtylene bis(2-chloroaniline)]	TBD	June 2027	June 2028
Vinyl chloride	TBD	June 2027	June 2028

* The deadlines for the remaining high-priority chemicals initiated in 2019 are subject to a consent decree.

** The December 31, 2025 consent decree deadline for 1,2-Dichloroethane was extended to April 30, 2026.

*** All December 31, 2026 consent decree deadlines were extended to February 12, 2027.

Resources Necessary to Complete Risk Evaluations

In 2025, EPA implemented a reorganization to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its operations and to better align our ability to meet Congressionally mandated deadlines. As part of this reorganization, OPPT onboarded over 35 staff from other programs across EPA. In addition, OCSPP's Office of Mission Critical Operations (OMCO) newly structured Risk Assessment Support Division, brought onboard over 50 staff bringing a wealth of scientific expertise. These additional staff support OPPT and immensely expand OPPT's capacity to complete the risk evaluations this year. EPA also

continues to focus on opportunities to create additional efficiencies by applying fit-for-purpose approaches for risk evaluations.

Conclusion

This report serves as the 2026 Annual Plan for Chemical Risk Evaluations under TSCA as required under TSCA Section 26(n).