

III. ITC's Activities During this Reporting Period (May to November 2002)

A. Voluntary Information Submissions

To promote more efficient use of information submission resources, the ITC developed the VISP and the VISION. The VISP is described in the ITC's 41st Report (Ref. 9), while the VISION is described in the ITC's 42nd Report (Ref. 5). The ITC developed the VISP and VISION as tools to provide a more cost-effective method for chemical producers, importers, processors, and users of ITC-recommended chemicals to provide voluntary information. Except for a few industries, the ITC received voluntary information submissions through the VISION on < 15% of the chemicals for which voluntary information was solicited. The ITC has not yet determined the reasons for the apparent low utilization of the VISION. In its 50th Report (Ref. 4), the ITC requested comments on procedures that could be implemented to make the VISION or other procedures for submitting voluntary information more effective.

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) provided an explanation of the chemical industry's limited participation in the VISION (Ref. 10). The ACC expressed concerns about the need to protect Confidential Business Information (CBI), the problems associated with soliciting voluntary submissions on non-HPV chemicals, the potential non-existence of specific data being requested by the ITC, and the resources required to submit studies in portable document format (PDF).

To supplement the efforts to obtain studies in PDF through the VISION, the ITC Staff has been contacting the producers and importers of ITC-recommended chemicals to obtain voluntary information submissions. These efforts were highly successful for the chemicals identified through DEBITS. The ITC Staff will continue to

contact the producers and importers of ITC-recommended chemicals to obtain voluntary information submissions as it continues its efforts to improve the utility of the VISP and VISION.

During this reporting period, the ITC acknowledges the voluntary information submissions from the following organizations: 3M Corporation; Albemarle Corporation; Amfine Chemical Corporation; Alkylphenol & Ethoxylates Research Council; Akzo Nobel Chemicals, Inc.; BASF Corporation; Bayer Corporation; Biddle Sawyer Corporation; Canon USA, Inc.; Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation; Cognis Corporation; Crompton Corporation; E.I. duPont de Nemours and Company; Eastman Chemical Company; ExxonMobil Corporation; Great Lakes Chemical Company; Hercules, Inc.; Lonza, Inc.; Lubrizol Corporation; Magruder Color Company; Noveon, Inc.; Schenectady International, Inc.; Society of Plastics Industry; and Strucktol Company.

Following the transmittal of this 51st Report to the USEPA Administrator, the ITC Staff will contact the producers and importers of the 9 indium compounds remaining on the *Priority Testing List* to obtain the following information to adequately access the extent and degree of exposure and potential hazard associated with indium compounds:

1. Recent non-CBI estimates of annual production or importation volume trends.

2. Use information, including percentages of production or importation that are associated with different uses.

3. Estimates of the number of workers and concentrations of indium compounds to which workers may be exposed during manufacture or processing including smelting processes, leaching processes, recovery of scrap material, deposition of film coatings, soldering, and production of electrical components including, but not limited to semiconductors.

B. DEBITS

In its 45th through 50th Reports (Refs. 2–4, 6, 7, and 11), the ITC described its strategies to screen and evaluate chemicals with persistence and bioconcentration potential. These activities are referred to as DEBITS. DEBITS provides a means to prioritize chemicals for information reporting and testing based on degradation and bioconcentration potential and availability of effects data. For DEBITS 1, the ITC used criteria to screen 12,685 chemicals and ultimately review 458, the disposition of which was described in the 45th through 50th Reports (Refs. 2–4, 6, 7, and 11). As a result of implementing DEBITS 1, the *Priority Testing List* contains three chemicals with persistence and bioconcentration potential that the USEPA may consider for its PBT Program: Benzenamine, 3-chloro-2,6-dinitro-N,N-dipropyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)-; stannane, dimethylbis[(1-oxodecyl)oxy]-; and benzene, 1,3,5-tribromo-2-(2-propenyloxy)-.

DEBITS 2 started with 8,511 chemicals with production volumes > 10,000 lbs reported to USEPA in response to the 1998 Inventory Update Rule (IUR). From these 8,511 chemicals, 30 non-HPV chemicals were identified that had 1998 production volumes > 50,000 lbs, predicted biodegradation half-lives > 2 months and predicted bioconcentration factors > 1,000. The ITC contacted manufacturers and importers of these 30 DEBITS 2 chemicals to solicit voluntary information on production and uses, and unpublished toxicity data. The ITC received production and use information for 22 DEBITS 2 chemicals and unpublished toxicity studies for 13 DEBITS 2 chemicals. After reviewing this and other available information the ITC deferred the 30 DEBITS 2 chemicals for information reporting rules. A brief rationale for deferring each DEBITS 2 chemical is given in Table 3 of this unit.

TABLE 3.—RATIONALES FOR DEFERRING 30 DEBITS 2 CHEMICALS

CAS No.	Chemical name	Rationale
118–74–1	Benzene, hexachloro-	Not domestically produced or imported
128–69–8	Perylo[3,4-cd:9,10-c'd']dipyran-1,3,8,10-tetrone	Potential low bioavailability
133–14–2	Peroxide, bis(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)	Low exposure potential from use
423–50–7	1-Hexanesulfonyl fluoride, 1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6-tridecafluoro-	Perfluorinated chemical referred to USEPA
509–34–2	Spiro[isobenzofuran-1(3H),9'-[9H]xanthen]-3-one, 3',6'-bis(diethylamino)-	Not domestically produced or imported