

# Enforcement Rules for Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act Amended

In response to the amendments to the *Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act* announced on 11 December 2013, the EPA amended Articles 4 and 7 of the *Enforcement Rules for Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act* (毒性化學物質管理法施行細則). The amendments stipulate tighter controls on Category 4 toxic substances and the establishment of a national toxic chemical substances safety alliance.

In response to changes in the management of Category 4 toxic chemicals, as announced in the latest amendments to the *Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act*, the EPA has been authorized to formulate the *Management Regulations for Permission to Use Category 4 Toxic Substances*. Article 4 of the said enforcement rules has thus become redundant and has been deleted. To facilitate the establishment of a national joint command, the EPA is encouraging affected enterprises to seek out operators who are in the same industry or who use toxic chemicals for purposes similar to theirs, and then establish mutual support mechanisms that can be managed by single or multiple parties. The EPA would like to see a national joint command develop into a coherent entity and has thus adjusted current administrative procedures and placed supervision of the safety alliance under the central competent authority. Local branches of the national safety alliance will be supervised by the competent authorities of local governments. Such supervision must be conducted according to Article 28 Paragraph 2 of the above management regulations so that government agencies (such as the Ministry of National Defense) or academic organizations can also establish safety alliances if necessary.

The EPA would also like to remind all enterprises that manufacture, use, store, or transport Category 1, 2 and 3 toxic chemicals to take advantage of the safety alliance online reporting system to submit their reports for evaluation at the earliest possible date. Enterprises that have signed the mutual support agreement will then find it easier to assist one another when toxic chemical accidents occur. Having effective joint prevention capabilities is the best way to safeguard public health and environmental quality.

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