



June 29, 2012

## **Chemtura Responds to Misleading Media Stories on Flame Retardants and Fire Safety Standards**

Recent newspaper articles, led by the Chicago Tribune, contained misleading and inaccurate information about the safety and effectiveness of Chemtura's available flame retardants. These assertions were made despite decades of scientific research showing that these products are efficient and effective at preventing potentially deadly fires in homes and businesses. The articles also contradict the very intention behind fire-safety standards developed by regulatory and legislative bodies around the world for a single purpose—to save lives and protect property.

Chemtura stands behind our flame retardant products and our industry, which play a crucial role in reducing the risk of fires that threaten lives and property. To ensure that the products that we use, the cars that we drive, and the homes that we live in do not contain materials that pose an unreasonable fire safety risk, standard-setting organizations, regulators, and legislators have established a wide range of fire safety standards. Through years of scientific research and development, and material testing, the effectiveness of flame retardants in reducing the flammability of synthetic materials has been demonstrated thousands of times. This scientific record has proven that flame retardants do one thing exceedingly well: reduce the risk of fires, thus preventing injury or death. That is why we strongly disagree with anything said by the Chicago Tribune and others that question the effectiveness of flame retardants. These products are created for the sole purpose of helping manufacturers in numerous industry sectors meet fire safety standards established by independent entities, often after years of review.

Chemtura is committed to the highest standards in our products and our practices. Our flame retardant products, all of which have undergone rigorous efficacy testing, meet not only the highest standards applicable worldwide, but also meet the exceptionally high standards set forth by our customers.

The novel brominated flame retardant component of Firemaster® 550 was subjected to extensive testing and satisfied all requirements set by the EPA before it was approved for full-scale commercial production. Additional product safety testing was subsequently requested by EPA. Upon a favorable review of this testing in 2009, EPA concluded no additional review was required. We introduced Firemaster® 550 because it offered a better environmental profile than the pentaBDE product it replaced, while maintaining the highest level of fire safety and quality in flexible polyurethane foam.

Final U.S. government approval for production of Firemaster® 550 was granted more than 10 years after our first filing, following numerous studies that used international protocols and that received extensive review by EPA scientists. Because of the thoroughness of this review and



the nature of the testing required by the U.S. government, the EPA assessment took several years to complete. The EPA concluded that our product is an improvement over pentaBDE and is suitable for use as a flame retardant for polyurethane foam applications.

Additionally, all of the scientific data show that the relative risk associated with Firemaster® 550 is extremely low, and it is far outweighed by the advantages of a product that provides life-saving and injury-reducing fire prevention benefits to millions of consumers every day.

The complete history of the regulatory review of the components of Firemaster® 550 is a good example of the extensive scrutiny that EPA is empowered to carry out on new products. We always welcome this independent agency's unbiased scientific review of our products. We have, and will, work closely with the EPA and other regulators and policy makers to realize the ultimate benefits of our products.

The Chicago Tribune also raised certain questions about a portion of our industry's advocacy efforts, and we take these questions seriously. Chemtura was not aware of any misstatements Dr. David Heimbach may have made during his presentations in support of the fire safety benefits of flame retardants. However, to ensure that the activities of trade associations and independent groups that we support meet the same rigorous ethical standards that we set for ourselves, we are conducting a comprehensive review of our company's flame retardant advocacy activities, including those that involve independent groups. The results of this review will help shape our approach to public advocacy going forward, including any future partnerships or support for third-party groups.

**For more information:**

[The Function of Flame Retardants](#)

[Meeting International Fire Safety Standards](#)

[Firemaster® 550 and Commitment to Greener Innovation](#)

[Works Openly and Cooperatively with Government Scientists](#)

[Industry Advocacy Activities](#)

[Click Here to Learn More About Flame Retardants](#)



## **Flame Retardants Do What They Are Intended to Do: Prevent Fire Injury or Death**

Chemtura stands behind its products and the industry that plays a crucial role in reducing the risk of fires that threaten lives and property. To ensure that the products that we use, the cars that we drive, and the homes that we live in do not contain materials that pose an unreasonable fire safety risk, standard-setting organizations, regulators, and legislators have established a wide range of fire safety standards. Through years of scientific research and development, and material testing, the effectiveness of flame retardants in reducing the flammability of synthetic materials is demonstrated thousands upon thousands of times each year. Each time a manufacturer has used a flame retardant to meet a flammability standard, they have conducted testing which proves that flame retardants are effective. Our flame retardant products have proven they do one thing exceedingly well: reduce the risk of fires, thus preventing injury or death. This is why we strongly disagree with anything said by the Chicago Tribune that disputes the efficacy of our products.

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## **Flame Retardants Meet and Exceed a Myriad of INDEPENDENT Standards on a Global Basis**

Chemtura is committed to the highest standards in its products and its practices. This is borne out by the quality and success of our products, all of which have undergone rigorous efficacy testing and meet not only the highest standards of government scientists and regulators in the United States and Europe, but the standards set forth by our many customers. Our products reduce the combustibility of materials and that is why customers use them.

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## **Chemtura's Firemaster® 550 Is Indicative of This High Standard, and a Move to Greener Chemicals Introduced in Partnership With The EPA**

The brominated flame retardant component of Firemaster® 550 was subjected to extensive testing and satisfied all requirements set by the EPA before we were allowed to begin full-scale commercial production. Final approval for production was granted more than 10 years after our first filing and came after following numerous studies that followed internationally recognized protocols and extensive review by EPA scientists.

Because of the thoroughness of this review and the nature of the testing required by the U.S. government, the EPA assessment took several years to complete. Government scientists concluded that it was an improvement over pentaBDE and is suitable for use as a flame retardant for polyurethane foam.

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**Chemtura Always Works Openly and Cooperatively With Government Scientists to Ensure the Safety and Effectiveness of These Essential Fire Prevention Products**

All of the scientific data show that the relative risk associated with Firemaster® 550 is extremely low, and it is far outweighed by the advantages of a product that provides life-saving and injury-reducing fire prevention benefits to millions of consumers every day.

The history of the review of the components of Firemaster® 550 is a good example of the extensive scrutiny that EPA is empowered to carry out. We always welcome this independent agency's unbiased scientific review of our products. We have and will continue to work closely with EPA and other regulators and policy makers to ensure that the safest and most effective products are used to meet fire safety standards.

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## **We Are Not Standing Pat on Past Advocacy Activities**

We acknowledge that the recent spotlight on advocacy efforts on behalf of our industry have raised serious questions about the conduct of associations with which we are affiliated. As with any questions of ethical conduct, we take these questions seriously. We work with numerous groups to help support those advocacy efforts and, to ensure these activities are in keeping with the principles contained in our code of business conduct, we are conducting a comprehensive review of our company's flame retardant advocacy activities, including those that involve independent groups. The results of this review will help shape our approach to public advocacy going forward, including any future partnerships or support for third-party groups.

## **On the Allegation of Fabricated Anecdotes by a Renowned Burn Doctor on Behalf of the Industry**

Although we were aware that Dr. David Heimbach was making presentations to various states' committees regarding the benefits of flame retardants in reducing the human toll of fires, we were not aware of any misstatements Dr. Heimbach may have made during those presentations. Understanding the circumstances and facts related to such presentations is a primary objective of the comprehensive review of our company's advocacy activities, including those that involve independent groups.

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