

Safer Packaging Alternatives (for domestic retailers)

Whereas:

OUR COMPANY has committed to environmentally sound retailing practices (use corporation's own language if possible)

OUR COMPANY sells private label items, items packaged in PVC packaging and items manufactured by other brands.

PVC packaging requires the manufacture of raw toxic chemicals, including chlorine, cancer-causing vinyl chloride monomer and ethylene dichloride. Such production exposes workers and surrounding communities to these toxic chemicals, which have been linked to a host of cancer and non-cancer health disorders.

Additives mixed with PVC resins such as stabilizers, plasticizers, and fillers can leach out of, or volatilize from, a PVC product during its useful life. Phthalates (plasticizers) may pose hazards, including the development of respiratory problems in children. One of the most common toxic additives is DEHP, a phthalate that is a suspected carcinogen and reproductive toxicant sometimes found in PVC packaging.

PVC has the lowest recycling rate of the major plastic resins. At present, most community recycling facilities in the United States do not accept PVC because it is not compatible with most existing PET recycling streams.

When burned, PVC plastic forms dioxins, a highly toxic group of chemicals that build up in the food chain. Dioxins are a class of chlorine-containing chemicals widely recognized as some of the most toxic and persistent chemicals ever made by humans.

Prominent retailers and manufacturers have exited PVC packaging or have publicly committed to do so. These include, for example, Wal-Mart, Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson, SC Johnson, Limited Brands, Hewlett Packard, and Sony.

Safer, cost-effective, alternatives to PVC packaging are readily available. From safer, recyclable plastics, to bio-based materials, there is a growing market replacing PVC packaging.

In the opinion of the proponents, phasing out PVC not only has significant environmental and health benefits, but also helps to build public trust, protect brand reputation, and safeguard and grow market share by anticipating regulation and recall/legal liabilities. Such actions can significantly and positively raise our company's environmental profile, enhance its reputation and competitive position. The increasing attention by policy makers, institutions and consumers to the presence of PVC in products and packaging necessitates adopting safer alternatives as they become available.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

the shareholders request that The Board of OUR COMPANY publish a report to the shareholders within nine months following the annual meeting, at reasonable cost and excluding proprietary information, describe policy options for OUR COMPANY to reduce or eliminate the use of PVC packaging for private label items and to encourage or require suppliers to reduce or eliminate their use of PVC packaging.