



CEPN Toward Zero Exposure Program Frequently Asked Questions

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1. Who is eligible to participate?

The Program is open to all companies (brands and suppliers) in the electronics supply chain. Membership in the Clean Electronics Production Network is not required. Participants will have opportunities to provide input on any major changes to the Program. Signatory fees for non-CEPN members are based on a company's annual gross revenue.

2. What is a Signatory and an Associate?

Signatories are companies that have joined the program, launched with a cohort group and are in good standing with respect to the commitment requirements. Associates have pledged their intent to join the program as they prepare to become a Signatory.

3. What are Priority Chemicals?

CEPN has identified a first round of Priority Chemicals – process chemicals to be prioritized for elimination or substitution in electronics manufacturing. This first round of Priority Chemicals focuses on solvents used in manufacturing cleaning products, which are used in high volumes throughout electronics manufacturing and can have significant impact on worker health and safety because they are often used for hands-on work. Future rounds of priority chemicals will be added to the program approximately every 2 to 3 years.

4. Where can I find information reporting outcomes from this program?

Annual reports and other periodic reporting from the program will be available at www.towardzeroexposure.org beginning in the first quarter of 2023.

5. How will companies be held accountable for making progress?

Verification includes both desk review and on-site auditing. Signatories can choose to self-declare progress or use third-party verification for the first round of priority chemicals. Future priority chemical progress will require third-party verification.

The program is a journey and Signatories are expected to work productively and in good faith toward the program requirements and verification.

6. Is the verification independent?

Independent organizations will conduct third-party on-site audits and desk reviews. Annual reports and other periodic reporting from the program will be available at www.towardzeroexposure.org beginning in the first quarter of 2023.

7. What process did CEPN use to design this program?

The six commitments in the Toward Zero Exposure program were identified by CEPN's multistakeholder group as the most important areas to make meaningful progress in protecting workers in the electronics industry from hazardous process chemicals. The commitments focus on companies' use of process chemicals, strengthening the culture of worker safety and engagement, reducing worker exposure to hazardous chemicals while substituting safer alternatives within their own manufacturing processes and promoting change throughout their supply chain.

8. Why were these six commitments chosen?

These commitments were designed to prioritize elimination and substitution of hazardous process chemicals, seeking to align market signals to encourage chemical suppliers to bring better solutions to market. CEPN and program Signatories will support and enable others to follow through research, education, pathways and filling data gaps such as safer alternatives.

9. How will this program affect change throughout the electronics industry and improve worker conditions deeper into the supply chain?

The Toward Zero Exposure program sends a clear signal to the entire global electronics industry that its leaders are prioritizing urgent action to protect the health of the people who make the devices on which the world relies.

The six commitments ensure that Signatories' activities will cultivate change across the complex, interconnected supply chains that make up the electronics industry. In addition to protecting workers within their own facilities, Signatories commit to protecting workers within select suppliers' facilities and also pledge to enlist suppliers to become Signatories themselves, expanding the program's reach exponentially.

10. How will the program benefit worker engagement and participation?

The program fosters systems and a culture where all workers are knowledgeable about potential hazards and actively participate and speak up for their safety and that of their co-workers. Elements include training, a joint worker-management safety committee and surveys to advance two-way communication between workers and management. The program was designed such that workers are consulted, informed and actively participating in protecting their health.