

FISCAL YEAR 2007 PROJECT Persistent, Bioaccumulative, & Toxics (PBT) & Other Priority Chemicals

Interstate Mercury Education & Reduction Clearinghouse (IMERC)

Project Strategy: Facilitate interstate coordination on implementation of mercury-added product legislation.

Starting in 1999 the states in the Northeast and other parts of the country actively began to pursue enactment of legislation focused on reducing mercury in products and waste. In 2001 NEWMOA launched the Interstate Mercury Education and Reduction Clearinghouse (IMERC) to provide ongoing technical and programmatic assistance to states that have enacted mercury education and reduction legislation; a single point of contact for industry and the public for information on mercury-added products and mercury education and reduction programs

Overall IMERC facilitates deliberations that provide advice and assistance to the individual states for their decision-making. IMERC:

- collects and manages data submitted by manufacturers of mercury-added products, as necessary to implement the Notification provisions of state mercury reduction legislation;
- facilitates interstate collaboration on the development and implementation of public education and outreach programs on mercury-added products;
- makes information on mercury-added products available to industry and the public;
- responds to public information requests for information on mercury-added products, the requirements of the Act, and the status of state implementation of the Act; and
- provides technical assistance, facilitates reviews, and makes recommendations to the member states concerning (i) manufacturers' applications for exemptions to the phase-out of mercury-added products; (ii) manufacturers' applications for alternative labeling of mercury-added products; and (iii) manufacturers' plans for collection and proper waste management of mercury-containing materials.

IMERC's membership includes NEWMOA and non-NEWMOA member state government agencies. These include California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington. All member states pay an annual fee. All member states have a vote on the recommendations made by the Clearinghouse to the states. All state representatives to IMERC are appointed by the responsible State Agency Commissioner/Director.

IMERC is funded by member state dues.

For more information visit www.newmoa.org/prevention/mercury/imerc.cfm or contact: Terri Goldberg, NEWMOA, (617) 367-8558 x302; tgoldberg@newmoa.org.