

1. Full citation:

McCarter, Mickey. "US Phthalates Ban in Children's Toys Looms." ICIS. ICIS, 01 Oct. 2008. Web. 18 Mar. 2013. <<http://www.icis.com/Articles/2008/10/06/9160591/us-phthalates-ban-in-childrens-toys-looms.html>>.

2. Where did/does the author work, what else has s/he written about, and what are her/his credentials:

The Independent Chemical Information Services (ICIS) provides petrochemical market information. They deal with pricing, news, etc. as it pertains to the petrochemical industry. Their credentials involve being heavily involved with that same industry.

3. What are the topics of the text:

The topic of the text is the United States government's bans on plasticizers in children's toys.

4. What is the main argument of the text:

The text itself doesn't have a main argument per se but, the text does give some extra information into the use of phthalates.

5. Describe at least three ways that the argument is supported:

- a) The text gives an example of the blocking of phthalates.
- b) The text details how the American Chemistry Council fought against the Consumer Product Safety Act.
- c) The text also details how ExxonMobil, a major manufacturer of DINP, campaigned against the ban on phthalates as well.

6. What three quotes capture the message of the text:

- a) "The law, signed by President George W. Bush on August 14, strengthens the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and enacts a permanent ban on three phthalates and a temporary ban on three others from comprising more than 0.1% of any children's product for ages 12 and under. The CPSC will review the phthalates under the interim ban to determine if a permanent blocking is necessary."
- b) "The American Chemistry Council (ACC), which campaigned against banning any phthalates from children's products, set up a website to inform consumers about the utility of phthalates and to assure the public that they pose no health risks. The ACC was disappointed with the legislation once Congress passed it, although the chemical trade association was pleased with some of the reforms for the CPSC."
- c) "ExxonMobil Chemical, headquartered in Houston, Texas, led the campaign against a ban on phthalates. ExxonMobil is a major manufacturer of DINP, the phthalate most prevalent in toys."

7. What three questions about environmental risk and precaution does this article leave you with:

- a) How widespread are phthalates used today?
- b) How much did ExxonMobil spend on lobbying against the Consumer Product Safety Act?
- c) How much did the American Chemistry Council spend on lobbying against the Consumer Product Safety Act?

8. What three points, details or references from the text did you follow up on to advance your perspective on environmental risk and precaution:

- a) Phthalates are still quite widespread and are used in many things from adhesives to personal care products.
- b) I could not find specific figures that gave totals but, Exxon Mobil gave nearly \$100,000 to a Super PAC to aid in fighting the bill.
- c) Once again, I could not find specific figures but, I imagine that just like ExxonMobil, the numbers were substantial.