

Considering an Alternative Fouling Control System?

When you are deciding whether or not to switch from copper-based antifouling paints to an alternative fouling control system, the following considerations should be taken:

1) Is the product available in Canada and it is a biocidal anti-foulant system?

Under the Pest Control Products (PCP) Act, pest control products must be registered with Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). If they are not registered, they cannot be imported, sold, or used in Canada. All paints that contain a biocide such as copper are subject to PCP registration. However, coatings such as Teflon which only act as physical barriers to prevent organisms from adhering to boat hulls do not need to be registered with the PMRA. A list of currently registered anti-fouling products is available at the PMRA website: <http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/intern/imo-e.html> .

2) Are all of the ingredients listed in the Domestic Substances List (DSL) and how have they been categorized?

The DSL is an inventory of substances manufactured in, imported into or used in Canada on a commercial scale under certain conditions between January 1, 1984 and December 31, 1986. The Existing Substances Program at Environment Canada categorizes and then if necessary, conducts screening assessments on substances listed on the DSL to determine whether they are “toxic” or capable of becoming “toxic” as defined in the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*.

Results of Environment Canada's Categorization of the DSL can be found at http://www.ec.gc.ca/CEPARegistry/subs_list/dsl/s1.cfm

a) If the ingredients are on the DSL, the categorization of the substances will give you an idea of the substances' potential to be toxic.

b) **If any of the ingredients is not on the DSL**, the importer of the product may be subject to the *New Substances Notification Regulations (Chemicals and Polymers)* [NSNR (Chemicals and Polymers)] and/or the *New Substances Notification Regulations (Organisms)* [NSNR (Organisms)] of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA, 1999). These Regulations were created to ensure that no new substances (chemicals, polymers or animate products of biotechnology) are introduced into the Canadian marketplace before an assessment of whether they are potentially toxic has been completed, and any appropriate or required control measures have been taken.

For more information about the New Substances Program, which is responsible for administering these regulations, visit

http://www.ec.gc.ca/substances/nsb/eng/home_e.shtml

3) Continue to collect and appropriately dispose of any wastes generated during hull maintenance activities.

Even if an alternative fouling control system is used, any wastes generated during hull maintenance activities should be captured and disposed of appropriately as the waste may still be deleterious.