

Novation Chemical Policy Statement

Novation is committed to helping hospitals create an environment that is free from the hazards posed by chemicals that are harmful to humans, animals and the environment. To that end, it has adopted a chemical policy statement to identify and address hazardous products contained in contracted products and to support the market for safer alternatives.

To advance an economy where the production and use of chemicals are healthy for humans as well as for our global environment and its non-human inhabitants, Novation urges responsible companies and their supply chains to adopt and implement the following four guiding principles (as developed by the Business-NGO working group on chemical policy reform):

1. Know and disclose product chemistry. Manufacturers will identify the substances associated with and used in a product across its lifecycle and will increase as appropriate the transparency of the chemical constituents in their products, including the public disclosure of chemical of high concern.¹
2. Assess and avoid hazards. Manufacturers will determine the hazard characteristics of chemical constituents and formulations in their products, use chemical with inherently low hazard potential, prioritize chemicals of high concern for elimination, minimize exposure when hazards cannot be prevented, and redesign products and processes to avoid the use and/or generation of hazardous chemicals. Buyers will work with their suppliers to achieve this principle.
3. Commit to continuous improvement. Manufacturers shall establish corporate governance structures, policies and practices that create a framework for the regular review of product and process chemistry. Buyers shall promote the use of chemicals, processes and products with inherently lower hazard potential.
4. Support public policies and industry standards. Manufacturers and buyers shall support public policies and industry standards that advance the implementation of the above three principles, assure that comprehensive hazard data are available for chemicals on the market, take action to eliminate or reduce known hazards and promote a greener economy, including support for green chemistry research and education.

Novation encourages Alliance members to request chemistry data from suppliers and prioritize chemicals of high concern for elimination. To aid in this effort, Novation has developed a list of purchasing criteria which avoids contracting for products containing specific materials, except where no suitable, cost effective alternatives exist. These materials include:

- brominated flame retardants
- glutaraldehyde
- bisphenol-A (BPA)
- halogenated flame-retardants and other halogenated organic chemicals
- mercury
- phthalates (including DEHP)
- polyvinyl chloride (PVC)
- latex

Novation supports initiatives to disclose product chemistry, assess and avoid hazards, promote the use of chemicals, processes and products with inherently lower hazard potential and advocate for public policies and industry standards that advance a greener economy.

¹ "Chemicals of high concern" include substances that have the following properties: 1) persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT); 2) very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB); 3) very persistent and toxic (vPT); 4) very bioaccumulative and toxic (vBT); 5) carcinogenic; 6) mutagenic; 7) reproductive or developmental toxicant; 8) endocrine disruptor; 9) neurotoxicant. "Toxic (T) includes both human and ecotoxicity.