HARVARD
Campus Services
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

# TSCA Regulated Chemical Information

## Table of Contents



## Introduction

Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is authorized to regulate chemicals hazardous to health. This document lists the TSCA rules for chemicals used in Harvard labs and how to meet the new regulatory requirements.

## Dichloromethane

In April 2024, the EPA issued a final rule regulating dichloromethane (methylene chloride, DCM) under TSCA. The EPA has determined this substance poses an unreasonable risk to human health primarily due to neurotoxicity from short-term exposure and liver effects and cancer from long-term exposure.

This new regulation effectively prohibits most industrial and commercial uses of DCM. However, use in laboratories or for solvent welding is still permitted under strict regulatory procedures.

This rule applies to all products and mixtures containing 0.1% or more DCM. All laboratories or groups using DCM in their work must follow the actions specified by EHS within the timeframe listed in this table. Only uses reviewed by EHS may continue.

| **Requirement** | **Timeline** |
|---|---|
| Notify EHS of all uses of DCM in laboratory operations or solvent welding. | By December 2024 for initial data collection.<br>Immediately for new planned uses |
| EHS-organized exposure monitoring for select labs and operations. | By May 2025 for initial uses.<br>Within 30 days for new uses that are not covered by prior exposure monitoring. |
| Cease operations where exposure levels cannot be reduced to below 2 parts per million (ppm) for an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA) or 16 ppm for a 15-minute TWA. | By August 2025 or three months after initial testing, whichever comes first. |
| Ensure the use of appropriate gloves. | By August 2025. |
| Complete an Exposure Control Plan (ECP) for all continuing uses and implement the precautions specified in the plan. EHS will provide an ECP template. | By October 2025. |
| Retesting based on initial exposure monitoring results. | Dependent on results; at least every five years. |
| Notify EHS of any new procedure or procedure changes, such as a change in engineering controls or increased quantities. | Ongoing. |

Refer to the Laboratory Safety Guideline: Dichloromethane and Laboratory Safety Guideline: Dichloromethane Substitutes documents for more additional information.

## Carbon Tetrachloride and Perchloroethylene

In December 2024, the EPA published final rules for carbon tetrachloride (CTC) and perchloroethylene (PCE, PERC). Lab use may continue if specific requirements are met. Continuing uses must be reviewed by EHS.

Requirements for continuing use of CTC and PCE include:

- Review by EHS.
- Implementation of ventilation controls, such as fume hoods, local exhaust, or glove boxes.
- Completion of task-specific training.
- Use of gloves that are impermeable under specific use conditions.
- Documentation of the gloves used by each individual.
- Controls must be in place by June 2025 for CTC and by December 2025 for PCE.

## Trichloroethylene

In December 2024, the EPA issued a final rule banning most uses of trichloroethylene (TCE), including in laboratories. Use of this chemical must cease by December 2025.

## Resources

- Ansell Chemical Glove Resistance Guide

Carbon Tetrachloride resources:

- Final Risk Management Rule for CTC
- Risk Management for Carbon Tetrachloride

Dichloromethane resources:

- Laboratory Safety Guideline: Dichloromethane
- Laboratory Safety Guideline: Dichloromethane Substitutes
- A Guide to Complying with the 2024 Methylene Chloride Regulation
- Fact Sheet: 2024 Final Risk Management Rule for Methylene Chloride under TSCA
- Final Risk Management Rule for Methylene Chloride
- Risk Management for Methylene Chloride

Perchloroethylene resources:

- Fact Sheet: Regulation of PCE under TSCA
- Final Risk Management Rule for PCE
- Risk Management for Perchloroethylene

Trichloroethylene resources:

- Fact Sheet: Regulation of TCE Under TSCA
- Final Risk Management Rule for TCE
- Risk Management for Trichloroethylene