



California Proposition 65

You may have heard California added Bisphenol S (BPS) to its list of chemicals regulated under its Proposition 65 law (Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986), effective December 29, 2023. Since its inception in 1987, Proposition 65 has consistently added chemicals after its annual review. Its goal is to remove aquatic toxins from products and their potential to harm various drinking water sources.

What does this mean for businesses?

Proposition 65 requires that all products containing chemicals on the list be labeled with a warning. It also encourages the removal of these chemicals from products sold in California, thus requiring businesses to develop alternative solutions while keeping quality high and cost manageable.

What is Appvion doing about it?

Continuing our innovation leadership with our patent-pending direct thermal chemistry which does not use phenolic developers, including BPS, or Pergafast® while maintaining high-quality performance with better contrast and fade resistance.

Transitioning our entire product portfolio to sustainable chemistries compliant with this regulation, ensuring peace of mind. It's not just about compliance; it's about creating a better tomorrow.

Through rigorous testing and continuous improvement, we have engineered a direct thermal paper coating that performs just as effectively, or better, than other products on the market, offering a safer and environmentally friendly choice made in the USA.

What are others doing about it?

Some companies might opt for temporary solutions, like Pergafast® 201, which the EPA has classified as a high aquatic toxicity hazard with little to no biodegrading properties.

Others are utilizing non-phenolic developers that produce sub-standard environmental and chemical resistance and print quality with fading issues in some applications.

Demand for products without phenolic developers and aquatic toxins will continue to increase. More aquatic toxins will likely be added to Proposition 65 in the near future.



Ecological



Compliant



High-Quality

“I’m very pleased. I believe Appvion’s phenol-free chemistry has better performance than competitive, phenol-containing products in the United States.” - Global Label Converter



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Chemical Compositions Overview

What are these chemicals, and what's Appvion doing about them?

The information below is provided to help clarify the chemicals causing buzz within the direct thermal paper industry due to recent regulatory updates, like the California Proposition 65 (CA Prop 65) and Safer Products for Washington laws.

BPS, BPA, & Other Phenolic Developers

CA Prop 65 added Bisphenol A (BPA) as a chemical of concern in 2015, and Bisphenol S (BPS) was recently added in December 2023 with a grace period until December 29, 2024. Phenolic developers, used in most direct thermal papers, are of concern due to their potential impact to drinking water sources and potential for aquatic toxicity. BPS replaced BPA in many direct thermal products, but it has now been added to CA Prop 65. Appvion led the market by removing BPA from its products in 2006. These chemicals are of concern due to their potential impact to drinking water sources and potential for aquatic toxicity. While some other phenolic developers are not on the Prop 65 list and are currently compliant, Appvion intends to utilize our industry-leading phenol-free chemistry to remove all phenolic developers from our products by Q2 of 2025.

Pergafast® 201

Pergafast® 201 is not yet regulated, but it has been approved as an alternative solution for BPA and BPS phenolic developers by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Other phenol-free offerings may contain Pergafast® 201 because the EPA previously approved it as an alternative to phenolic developers. But there is more to it than that. In the EPA's study and other recent studies, two things were proven about Pergafast® 201: first, it is moderately hazardous to human developmental and reproductive harm, and second, it has high aquatic toxicity and very high environmental persistence with little to no biodegradation. Due to these findings, the EPA could not constitute an endorsement to use it. Therefore, it is likely that, like other aquatic toxins, Pergafast® 201 will be added to the CA Prop 65 list in the near future. Appvion does not use Pergafast® 201 in any of our products.

Appvion's Patent-Pending Phenol-Free Chemistry

Through rigorous testing and continuous improvement over the last decade, Appvion has successfully engineered a direct thermal paper coating made from natural materials. This revolutionary solution is aquatic friendly and performs just as effectively, or better, than other products on the market, offering a brilliantly safer and environmentally friendly choice for all. Our new, patent-pending direct thermal chemistry does not use any phenolic developers or Pergafast®, and it maintains high-quality performance for our direct thermal paper with better contrast and fade resistance than any other phenol-free solution on the market.



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