

# MEMBER NEWSLETTER



## The U.S. Administration Recently Announced Two Section 232 Trade Actions

**What's happening:** Section 232 is a law that allows the U.S. administration to restrict imports if they are seen as a risk to national security. These decisions can be made quickly and can sometimes affect industries that were not the original focus.

**Why it matters:** Updated steel and aluminum tariffs now exempt many cosmetics and personal care products, helping companies avoid higher costs thanks to industry advocacy. A new action targeting certain pharmaceutical products has raised questions about whether shared ingredients used in both pharmaceuticals and cosmetics could be impacted, but PCPC successfully limited our exposure.

**Dig deeper:** The metals decision shows that industry engagement can make a real difference. Exemptions for cosmetics and personal care products help limit cost increases and protect supply chains.

The pharmaceutical action appears more limited in scope. Early analysis shows that only a very small number of cosmetic ingredients could be affected, and those are used in very few products. At the same time, a much larger number of ingredients appear to be clearly excluded. Even so, these types of trade actions can change over time, creating uncertainty for companies that rely on global supply chains.

**Bottom line:** Advocacy is working and has helped protect the industry from broader trade measures. At the same time, the continued use of Section 232 means companies need to stay engaged and informed. PCPC will continue to monitor these actions and work with members to address any potential impacts.

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## *PCPC v. Bonta: Defending First Amendment Rights on Prop 65 + DEA*

**What's happening:** PCPC filed a First Amendment lawsuit in early March challenging California's Prop 65 listing of diethanolamine (DEA), arguing the mandated warning is false, misleading, and unsupported by current science. This case builds directly on PCPC's win in the titanium dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>) litigation and other similar legal challenges.

**Why it matters:** If California can compel warnings that misstate risk, companies face a growing patchwork of requirements that confuse consumers and undermine trust in cosmetic products.

**PCPC's position:** Science, not politics, must drive chemical listings, and companies cannot be forced to make statements they believe are not supported by scientific consensus. The DEA challenge seeks to stop compelled speech that contradicts the weight of scientific evidence.

**Bottom line:** The federal court will now consider whether California's DEA warning requirement violates the First Amendment. PCPC will keep members updated as the case progresses.

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## PCPC Joins Coalition Legal Challenge to California's SB 343

**What's happening:** PCPC has joined 20 other trade associations in a First Amendment lawsuit challenging California's SB 343, a law that restricts the use of recycling symbols and claims on packaging.

**Why it matters:** The lawsuit contends that SB 343 makes it risky for businesses to provide recycling instructions, chilling speech, and increasing compliance costs as companies alter or remove labels to avoid liability.

**Our take:** A circular economy relies on clear consumer guidance. As the complaint notes, "If companies cannot label recyclable packaging as recyclable, that packaging is far more likely to end up in a landfill." The coalition argues the law risks confusing consumers, suppressing accurate information, and discouraging investment in more sustainable packaging.

**Dig deeper:** The compliance deadline for SB343 is fast approaching on October 4, 2026. The coalition argues that SB 343 imposes a sweeping content-based restriction on speech, barring companies from using widely recognized recycling symbols and statements even when they are factually accurate unless packaging meets state-defined criteria. According to the complaint, those criteria "do not reflect real-world recycling capabilities" and are "vague and difficult to apply."

**Bottom line:** On Friday, April 24, the plaintiffs filed a motion for a preliminary injunction against enforcement while the litigation proceeds. A hearing date will likely take place in federal court in early June. PCPC will keep members updated as the case progresses.

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PCPC thanks [Unilever](#) for supporting PCPC's 2026 Beauty Collective Summit and their continued partnership in advancing innovation across the cosmetics and personal care industry.



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### Announcements and Upcoming Events

#### **PCPC Member Benefit:** **[Navigate Global Regulations with the International Regulatory Database](#)**

PCPC members are eligible to subscribe to the International Regulatory Database (IRDB), a trusted global resource for regulatory documents and ingredient restrictions to support compliance and informed decision-making.

To help you get the most from IRDB, [join us for a complimentary webinar on May 12](#) to learn about the latest updates and enhancements.

[Register Today](#)

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## PCPC Member Newsletter Archive

Members can access previous member newsletter issues by navigating to the PCPC website under "[Archived Member Newsletters](#)."

[View the Archive](#)

## May 19–20, 2026: New York Society of Cosmetic Chemists Suppliers' Day, New York City

PCPC will present an educational program on May 19, **From Labeling to Launch: Fundamentals of Compliance for Cosmetics**, which brings together PCPC experts and international leaders to break down essential regulatory, safety, and labeling requirements—helping attendees navigate U.S. and global compliance with clarity and speed.

[Register](#) with promo code **PCPC26** to save, and visit us at the **Expo Hall, Booth #325**.

[Learn More](#)

## June 3–5, 2026: Legal & Regulatory Conference, Chicago

Join us at [The Drake Hotel](#) in Chicago, where attorneys, scientists, and regulatory affairs professionals gather to navigate the latest legal and regulatory developments impacting our industry.

Session topics include California's SB 54, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws and emerging sustainability compliance requirements (a new half-day session), moving from compliance to influence, and practical discussions on reporting, fees, and implementation challenges.

### Important Deadlines:

- **May 4:** [Hotel room block rate ends](#)
- **May 6:** Registration deadline to be included in CLE credit filings
- **May 21:** [Standard registration rates end](#)

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