

Fact bite #1



Regrettable Substitution & the Precautionary Principle

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Regrettable substitution occurs when a hazardous chemical is replaced with another chemical that lacks safety data and may pose similar or even greater risks.

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To avoid this, the precautionary principle can be applied, which assumes no new substance is safe until enough data is made available to ensure it is.

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One example is the switch from bisphenol A (BPA) to bisphenol S (BPS) or bisphenol F (BPF) in food contact materials. Because BPA has been linked to various adverse health effects, companies began shifting away from BPA. Unfortunately, structurally similar bisphenols such as BPS or BPF were substituted and later found to also have concerning health effects.

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