This was the first meeting of the 2010 Chronic Hazard Advisory Panel (CHAP) on Phthalates and Phthalate Substitutes. CPSC Chairman Inez Tenenbaum welcomed the CHAP members. Following introductions, Michael Babich, CPSC Project Manager for Phthalates briefed the CHAP on the history of phthalates activities at CPSC, the toxicity of phthalates, and the responsibilities of the CHAP, as outlined in section 108 of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA). Section 108 of the CPSIA requires the CHAP “to study the effects on children’s health of all phthalates and phthalate alternatives as used in children’s toys and child care articles.” Furthermore, the CHAP is required to complete an examination of the full range of phthalates that are used in products for children including, among other things, the potential health effects of phthalates in isolation and in combination with other phthalates by a variety of exposure routes not only ingestion, examine likely exposure levels to children, pregnant women and others and consider the combined effect of total exposure from children’s products and other products such as personal care products.

Following the lunch break, CHAP members elected Philip Mirkes as Chair and Bernard Schwetz as Vice-Chair of the CHAP. Dr. Mirkes then led the CHAP’s discussion of the CHAP’s responsibilities. The panel discussed each of the requirements for their risk assessment in detail.

On the second day, the CHAP discussed the approaches that it could take to accomplish its work. Dr. Kortenkamp gave a presentation on the combined effects of phthalates and other antiandrogenic chemicals. The CHAP discussed the possible use of confidential information, such as toxicity data submitted by manufacturers. The CHAP concluded
that they would use only data that is available to the public in their assessment. The CHAP also discussed topics such as defining “acceptable risk” and “adverse effect.”

The CHAP requested additional information from the CPSC staff, including toxicity data on additional phthalates and an update on phthalates research at the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences. The CHAP agreed to meet again on July 26-28, 2010 at CPSC. The public would be invited to present testimony on Monday July 26. The CHAP also requested that scientific experts on various topics related to the CHAP be invited to the next meeting, to present research results and participate in discussions with the CHAP.

The meeting was recorded and can be viewed at: http://www.cpsc.gov/about/cpsia/chap0410.html