



Bills Committee on Product Eco-responsibility (Amendment) Bill 2013

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What are Micro-Beads?

Micro-Beads are minute plastic beads that are manufactured and used in consumer products such as toothpaste and cosmetic scrubs to produce a “feel good factor”.

After use, they are immediately discharged into waste water systems. This is **POLLUTION BY DESIGN!!!**

How long have Micro-Beads been around?

Micro-Beads were patented in the 1970’s, but have only been used as a disposable entity in consumer products recently.

What problem do Micro-Beads pose?

Micro-plastics in the marine environment is still a new science, but they are known to accumulate toxic contaminants and are ingested by a wide range of organisms.

A major concern with Micro-Beads is that because of their small size, they have a large surface area by volume, so as a consequence of their use, huge numbers of readymade, highly efficient toxic accumulators are being intentionally released into the environment.

What action has been taken elsewhere to tackle the problem of Micro-Beads?

Unilever, Procter and Gamble, Johnson and Johnson and the Body Shop have announced they will phase out the use of Micro-Beads in all of their products, but many scrubs on sale in Hong Kong still use Micro-Beads.

I would like Micro-Beads to be included in the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance (Cap.603).

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