

Environmental Regulations and the the Electronics Industry



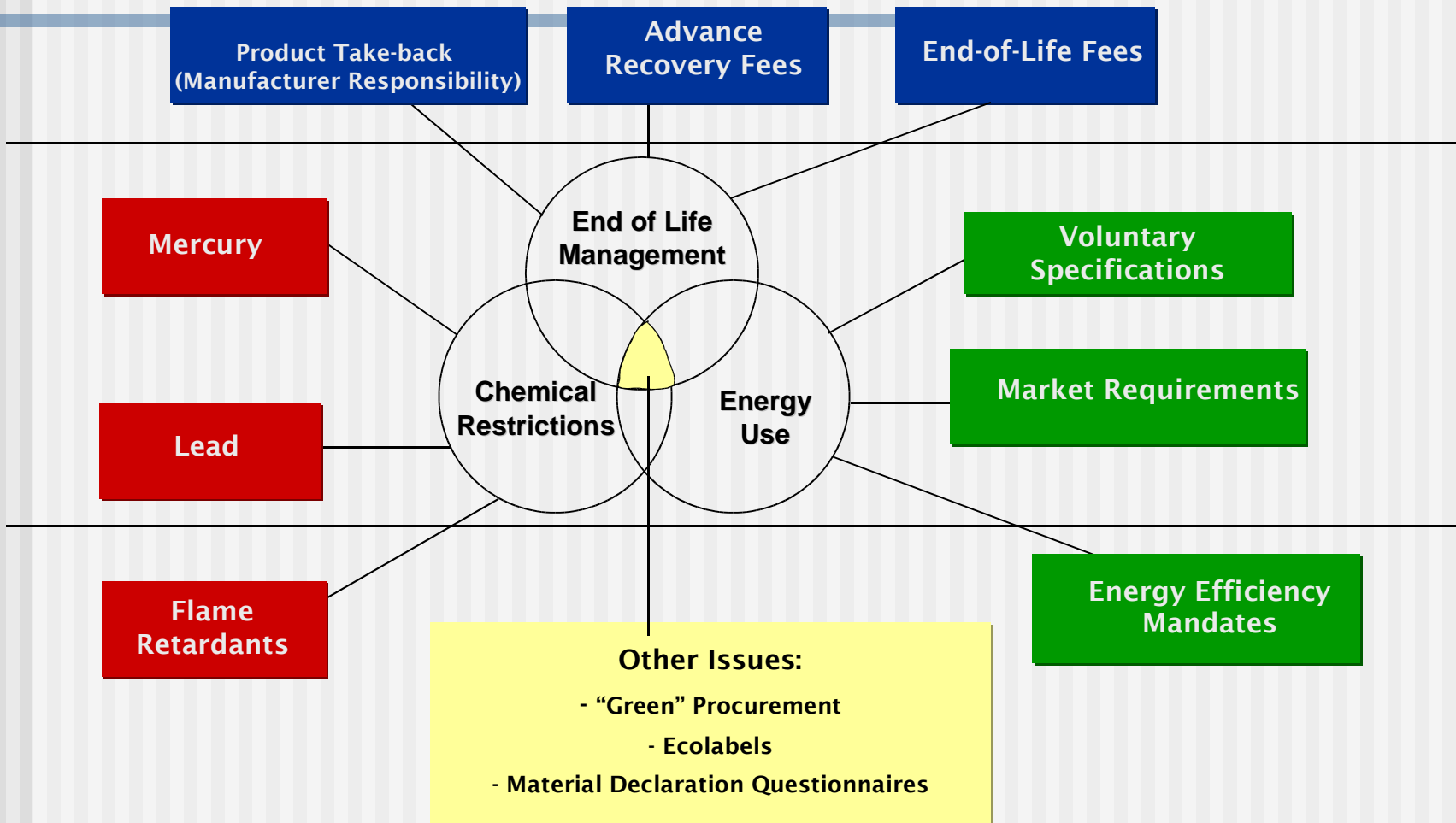
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Electronics Industry as “Test Case” for New Trend in Product Regulation

- New product-focused environmental mandates
- Driven by perception that electronic products pose environmental risk at end of life.
- Regulators are “going upstream” to product producers to eliminate perceived risk
- Implementation of “Polluter Pays” principle regardless of whether pollution will occur!
- In EU, this is called “Precautionary Principle”

Scope of Environmental Issues Facing Electronic Industry



All issues are active at international, federal, and state levels!

Result – Unprecedented Regulation of Entire Product Life Cycle!

Impacts are significant!

- Product design
 - - Chemical restrictions may impact reliability, safety, environmental impact
- Product sale
 - - Labeling, packaging, and notification requirements may hinder interstate/global sale
- Product use
 - - Energy efficiency mandates may impact functionality, consumer choice
- Product disposition
 - - Mandates likely to be costly – who will pay?

Scope/Goals of Session

- Hear from industry experts on pending/enacted international, federal, and state environmental mandates
- Understand context of regulatory changes and how they impact:
 - Product design
 - Manufacture
 - Sale
 - Use
 - Disposal
- Explore areas where industry members could work together to meet/manage requirements
- Other?

Common Themes?

- Scientific arguments less effective at defeating product related legislation
- Product regulation likely to increase
- Design mandates are more difficult to address than end-of-life management mandates
- Global products require global solutions
- Industry goal: harmonization of legal mandates
- Industry benefits by working together to develop tools to help manage/meet requirements