International Handbook on Regulating Nanotechnologies

Edited by Graeme A. Hodge, Director, Monash Centre for Regulatory Studies, Faculty of Law, Monash University, Australia, Diana M. Bowman, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics, Melbourne School for Population Health, University of Melbourne, Australia and Andrew D. Maynard, Director, Risk Science Center, University of Michigan School of Public Health, US

‘The Handbook’s 26 chapters do a remarkable job of capturing the last decade of commentary and policy perspective regarding nano-related environmental health and safety regulatory issues, along with providing some fresh perspectives on where its future might be headed. It is an invaluable primer for those wanting to hear about the issue from some of the most authoritative voices in the area.’

– John C. Monica, Jr., Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP

As scientists and technologists discover how to engineer matter at the nanoscale in increasingly sophisticated ways, conventional approaches to ensuring safe use are being brought into question. Nanotechnologies are challenging traditional regulatory regimes; but they are also prompting new thinking on developing and using emerging technologies safely. In this Handbook, leading international authors from industry, government, non-governmental organizations and academia examine the complex and often controversial regulatory challenges presented by nanotechnologies. Across several disciplinary boundaries, they explore how the future regulatory landscape may evolve. From the Europe Union to the United States, workplaces to personal products, and statutory instruments through to softer approaches, it is clear that considerable vigilance will be needed in governing these powerful and novel technologies. To succeed, society will need new thinking, new partnerships and new mechanisms to balance the benefits of these technologies against their possible downsides. Anything less will prompt cries of illegitimacy and potentially compromise a promising new realm of technology innovation.

This Handbook draws on contributions from leading nanotechnology regulation scholars around the globe. It goes beyond articulating how certain nanotechnologies are currently regulated and the significance of existing regulatory gaps, to assessing how the future regulatory landscape may evolve. As well as considering potential legislative responses that could be employed by governments, the Handbook examines a range of other options available to stakeholders. The Handbook employs new and innovative lenses through which to view these regulatory challenges and by adopting an in-depth, systematic and whole-of-life-approach, synergistically combines contributions from many countries, many fields and many disciplines. Informative and insightful, it presents thought-provoking and stimulating perspectives on the coming nano-age and on how we as citizens will govern its future.


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