

Monday, November 2, 2009, 11:12am PST

**Clorox to make changes at bleach plants** [by Steven E.F. Brown](#)

The **Clorox Co.** will change the way it makes its eponymous bleach by phasing out transport of chlorine in rail cars to its factories. The chemical composition of the bleach won't be changed, said spokesman Dan Staublin, but the ingredients transported to the factories and stored there will change. "The emphasis here is that we're removing the transportation of chlorine from our end-to-end supply chain," Staublin said.

Instead of shipping chlorine in rail cars to its plants, Clorox (NYSE: CLX) will buy "high-strength bleach" from manufacturers and ship that in trucks. Once at the plant, the high-strength bleach will be diluted and treated with the company's proprietary processes to create household bleach. This also means chlorine won't have to be stored and handled at the factories. Staublin gave two main reasons for the change — efficiency and security.

"We're in a regulatory environment. Certain chemicals are being more closely scrutinized," he said. If U.S. regulators focus on chlorine in the future and change requirements for shipping it and storing it, that could be more expensive...

The changes won't affect the size of the company's workforce, Staublin said.

Don Knauss is CEO and chairman of Oakland-based Clorox.