Chemicals in Products

An overview of systems for providing information regarding chemicals in products and of stakeholders’ needs for such information

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Content

- Overview of CiP information systems
- Stakeholders’ need for CiP information
- Gaps
- Reflections on closing gaps
Examples of CiP information systems

Generic components of CiP information systems

- Organisation & resources for support and training
- Definition of information to be provided
- Platform for information provision
- Defined method for generation/provision of information (upstream actors, literature, tests)
- Information ownership and access
- Routines for updating and verification of information
- Methods for interpretation of data
IMDS in car industry

- Driver: legal requirements
- Supply chain actors – brand owners (uncertain regarding EoL actors)
- Proprietary information
- Well-established rules
- List of Basic Substance (relevant for sector)
  - GADSL
  - REACH
  - Others
Find healthy, green, ethical products according to scientific ratings.

- Driver: individual consumers want better information & interpretations for purchase decisions
- Form NGO-like structure
- web and mobile phone communication
- Check products; 2,000 toys, 16,000 food products, 47,000 personal care
Systems for CiP information

Many systems – patchy information and accessibility
  • Chain interaction and coverage works, as alternative to sample the product
  • Great variation in system design and provided information
  • Provides information between many different types of actors
  • Systems and users identified in all parts of the world
    – Often initiated in Japan, Europe and North America

Stakeholders’ need for CiP information
Who are the stakeholders?

Within the product chain
- Producers (production, distribution and sale of products)
- Consumers
- EoL actors

Outside the chain
- Government agencies and policy makers
- NGOs, etc

CiP information needs

Several and different stakeholders with different information needs all over the world

Different abilities to utilise the information (evaluate, interpret data for decisions)
- Chemicals related information: content, amounts, hazard and risk
- Information related to the end-of-life management: Chemical content, location of substances, waste disposal
- Information regarding precautions for safe use/handling and disposal:
- Producer related information: traceability, monitor compliance
- Supply chain related information:
  - companies behind the final product
  - Also accidents, recycling
Example: a textile supply chain

Cotton farming → Ginning → Yarn production → Greige fabric production → Fabric dyeing & finishing → Garment production → Distribution

Example: a textile supply chain

Fashion retailer

Dye-stuff and chemical inputs are provided by large multinationals and/or smaller local suppliers

Fertilizers, pesticides and seeds are provided by large multinationals and/or smaller local suppliers

In addition to the fabric, apparel manufacturers will have suppliers for all necessary items such as buttons, zippers etc.
On stakeholders’ information needs

Individuals’ and organisations’ vary:
- Skills, knowledge and capacity,
- Resources
- Priorities and values
- Contexts (social, cultural, environmental, regulatory)

Conclusion: tremendously heterogeneous
Some conclusions on gaps

- Many actors in all stakeholder groups and all regions express need for better information
- Mainly on chemical content
- Different ability to make use of the information
- Few comprehensive systems broadly adopted in certain applications

Harmonised CiP information systems

- Tier 1: know what substances are present in the product or able to migrate from it – easier to harmonise
- Tier 2: information on/interpretation of what the chemical content means, should be evaluated, and instructions for actions – tailored support functions to be harmonised by and for certain stakeholder groups to meet different needs
Critical decisions

• Full disclosure or RSL/DSL etc
• Rules and principles
• Information access
• Information format and technical platform
• Control and verification (incl. ownership and responsibilities)
• Sanctions
• Legal status

Thank you! Questions?