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Experience of downstream users and challenges companies face regarding needs of information

Background

ChemSec was actively involved in the REACH legislative process, working to engage multinational companies in the process. In doing so, ChemSec has built up a network of progressive companies (mostly downstream users and retailers in direct contact with, and responsible towards consumers), striving to take the next step in the phase-out of hazardous substances in their production lines.

A main focus in ChemSec's work with regulation as well as within the context of the ChemSec Business Group is information on chemicals in products.

In the legislative context, REACH, the new EU chemicals legislation, sets in place structures to collect information on chemicals and to increase the flow of this information in the supply chain. However, requirements on information on chemicals in articles remain weak in the new legislation. Much needed information on high concern chemicals will continue to be difficult to retrieve, for actors in the supply chain as well as for regulators and consumers.

Outline presentation, main points.

Case study/main focus: Construction Industry. Model for other industries?

ChemSec experience from working with an active network of companies manufacturing and selling consumer products.

- Description of the type of companies/products.
- Feedback received from manufacturers of consumer goods on their situation regarding information in the supply chain.

Basic question: Why? Why is this information required?

- Regulation/compliance
- Branding/consumer demand
- Waste management
- Workers protection.

Challenges met in retrieving information.

- Information from suppliers.
- Chemicals used in processes.
- Communication, compliance

Solutions found/developed to increase the flow of information in the supply-chain.

- Informing/educating the supply chain about needs and criteria used, eg through workshops, asking the right questions etc.
- Aligning requirements, eg BASTA, AFIRM, REACH?
- Regulation?

Needs in terms of information. From suppliers, producers, regulators.

- How should the regulatory structures be developed to ensure an increased flow of information in the supply chain?