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Title: How Much should Products Details be Gathered and Disclosed for Chemical Safety Management?

The SAICM *objective B (b)(i)* “to ensure that information on chemicals throughout their life cycle, including, where appropriate, chemicals in products, is available, accessible, user friendly, adequate and appropriate to the needs of all stakeholders” is certainly an objective we all like to meet. At the cradle side of the *information on chemicals throughout their life cycle*, it is expected that REACH will speed up the information gathering from the first tier, the manufacturers. Therefore, understanding the merits of REACH and its implementation is essential for all industries in order to play their parts. However, the gathering of information along the supply chain, right to the grave, requires awareness, understanding, and active participation of all stakeholders.

A few initiatives developed for the gathering of chemical information in articles and currently implemented are discussed. The *Product Registers* in Europe with constituted databases of products information on the formulation of products marketed by a trade name. In the US, the household products database of US NLM which allows consumers to learn about the constituents and specific ingredients of products is an interesting model for raising awareness and attracting participation from consumers. As for the JAMP voluntary initiative of Japan, it has a software to help guide the users in getting information in the form of MSDSplus of substances and preparations along the supply chain, and AIS (Article Information Sheet) for chemical information in articles.

The concept and outcome of these initiatives should be evaluated if a global standard system is to be developed for common use. As stated by the SAICM Secretariat - “SAICM provides the policy framework and can facilitate assistance, but progress depends on the initiative of individuals actors, including government, IGOs, and civil society organizations”, the ability and the readiness of stakeholders both at national and international levels are therefore the key elements for making progress. Experiences of developed countries in chemical information management need to be shared with developing countries. In essence, the system to be designed should be simple and contain minimum relevant items that can be practiced in most countries. The confidentiality aspect of the information is also a sensitive issue that has to be considered to receive full cooperation from industrial sector and at the same time provides enough content that exhibits transparency and usefulness for public accessibility. The SAICM workshop will hopefully provide an opportunity to discuss about relevant criteria that bring about a good balance between *industrial confidentiality* and *information on chemicals throughout their life cycle*.