

Chemicals in Products Project Synthesis of findings



UNEP Chemicals

Workshop of the CiP Project - March 16, 2011

What the synthesis report covers



- Brief history of the CiP Project
 - ICCM2 through the priority sector case studies
- General review of
 - the stakeholder groups, their needs for CiP information and gaps
 - the drivers to chemicals information exchange
 - the systems that already exist
(drawn primarily from Needs Survey and Kogg&Thidell reports)
- Sector case studies: their major findings and conclusions
- Common issues among the sectors
- Sector-expert Consultation (Dec 2010)
- Common obstacles
- How to address gaps and obstacles
- General conclusions
- Recommendations

Common drivers for chemicals information exchange



- A major driver for most current chemicals in products information systems has been a need to meet legislative requirements.
- Other drivers include:
 - requirements from consumers and public interest groups who are increasingly concerned to have safe products;
 - industry concern for product liability and brand and corporate image;
 - corporate policies regarding environmental performance
- These drivers are present in all countries. However in developing countries few initiatives have been seen so far.

Common issues



- Manufacturers can affect change by insisting that chemical information is provided to them, although smaller companies may not have the influence on their suppliers to accomplish this.
- Numerous initiatives exist where manufacturers or distributors exceed the legal requirements – these proactive measures are the leading edge of CiP information exchange and control.
- The chemicals industry has made efforts at the start of the production chain to “push” GHS / SDS data down the chain with the chemicals.

Information systems in common use



- Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), including Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
- Restricted Substances Lists
- ICCA's Global Product Strategy (GPS) chemicals portal
- Eco-labels
- Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)
- Material Data Sheets (MDSs)
- Third-party supplied data (web portals)
- Full content declarations (rare)

Sector expert Consultation



- Held in Geneva in December 2010
- Provided a forum for discussions as the sector case studies neared completion:
 - with the business sector representatives
 - and the institutes carrying out the work
- Objectives:
 - to share the research results of the institutes;
 - to exchange experts' experiences and knowledge from the different sectors on product chemical information;
 - to identify critical issues with regard to CiP information exchange, especially on the data provider's side; and
 - to discuss possible measures or options that could help overcome obstacles for providing information

Obstacles to information exchange

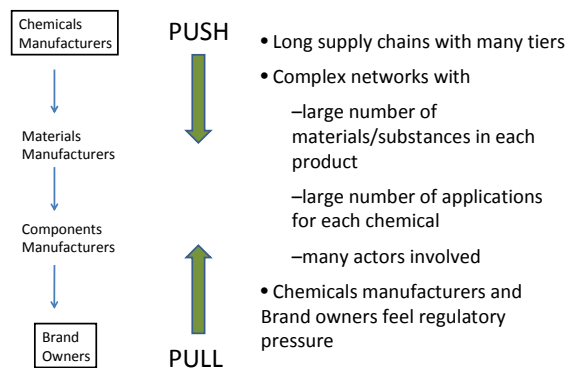


- Complexity of the issue
- Cost
- Lack of standardized systems
- Ability to process the information
- Changing requirements (legislative, for specific substances)
- Information is not carried through the production chain / life-cycle
 - lack of a request or of a perceived need to transmit the information
 - confidential nature of the information
 - has not been done in the past → a new activity which needs time and effort to establish

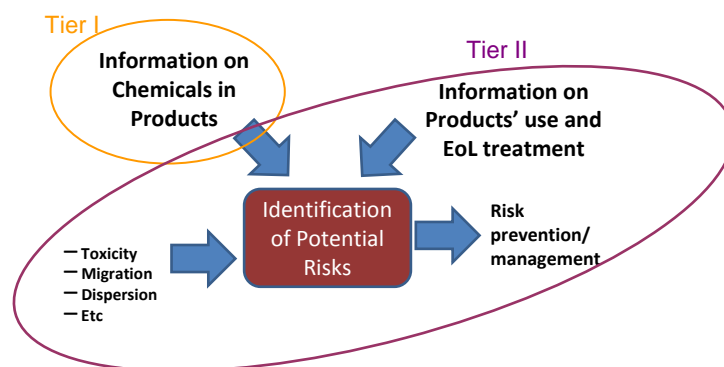
Gaps in information exchange



Production chain “pull” and “push” of information access and provision



Tier I and Tier II information



Some ways of addressing gaps and obstacles



- Build on systems currently in place
- Development of harmonized standards and formats
- Account for the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises
- Foster communication between different stakeholders in the manufacturing process and along the entire lifecycle
- Address concerns on confidential information disclosure
- Account for the need for improved information access on chemicals in products being recycled

General conclusions



- Regulation and voluntary initiatives were complementary and both play an important role.
- General awareness on the dangers of chemicals in products is growing
- There is a potential positive business impact that improved knowledge, oversight and actions on chemicals in products could bring.
- A harmonized industry-wide effort by sector is likely to be more efficient and effective than individual company actions.
- Exchange of information on chemicals in products in the supply chains is potentially the basis for other efforts to meet the SAICM objective 15(b).
- Tailoring that information to the needs of actors/stakeholders along the product lifecycle is a separate task.

Recommendations



A pilot project could be the most useful and positive next step forward.

To identify:

- Clear objectives (information on which chemicals, in what format, etc.)
- Ways to engage stakeholders leading in CiP information exchange, including companies
- Potential existing systems to build upon