

Synopsis of the Chemicals in Products (CiP) Programme guidance for Governments

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to Governments participating in the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Chemicals in Products (CiP) Programme to support meeting the Programme's objectives and to inform and motivate the participation of other Governments in the CiP Programme. This document draws from guidance documents developed for participants of the Programme ^(1,2). Additional summary guidance documents have been developed for industry and civil society ^(3,4).

Programme Objectives

The CiP Programme is a voluntary initiative to assist government, industry and non-governmental stakeholders throughout the product life cycle to exchange information on chemicals that may be found in manufactured products. The Programme prioritizes information-sharing about chemicals of concern (including those regulated by Governments) throughout the full product life cycles, and recognizes the fundamental importance of information-sharing in supply chains.

The central principle of the programme is that all stakeholders, both within and outside the supply chain, should have access to relevant and reliable information to make informed decisions, and enable informed actions, about chemicals in products.

The objectives of the CiP Programme are:

1. To know and exchange information on chemicals in products, associated hazards and sound management practices within supply chains;
2. To disclose relevant information to stakeholders outside the supply chain to enable informed decision-making and actions about chemicals in products;
3. To ensure that, through due diligence, information is accurate, current and accessible.

Government Roles and Activities in the CiP Programme

Where chemicals in products issues are concerned, Governments formulate and enforce statutes to regulate chemicals for environmental and public health objectives and also to engage in non-regulatory initiatives to achieve these goals. Governments require access to a broad range of chemicals in products information to be able to assess hazards and potential risks that should be managed, to develop legislation to manage chemicals in products, to ensure compliance and exercise oversight, and also to be fully responsive and effective.

The CiP Programme, which is voluntary for both public and private sector participants, promotes awareness of chemicals in products information systems and aims to provide a common reference to scope, design and implement systems to facilitate the sound management of chemicals. Participation in the programme benefits Governments through increased access to data leading to improved assessments of the actual risks of chemicals and the need for risk management actions; new opportunities for intergovernmental collaboration through the sharing of information and experience; creation of opportunities for innovation and green chemistry; and improved visibility of

chemicals in products information and collaboration among stakeholders within and outside supply chains. These voluntary actions can allow for more informed legislative and regulatory management of chemicals in products by participant Governments.

Within the CiP Programme, Governments play numerous roles, including:

- In collaboration with stakeholders, specifying chemicals in products information required to inform risk assessment and management;
- Conducting inter-ministerial coordination and collaboration to create opportunities to use chemicals in products information (i.e., to mainstream chemicals into overall national policy);
- Engaging in intergovernmental coordination and collaboration to facilitate information-sharing and capacity-building; and,
- Supporting initiatives related to chemicals in products and to communicate regulatory and non-regulatory risk management measures related to stakeholders, the environment and the public.

As part of the CiP Programme, Governments are encouraged to take action related to the above-mentioned roles, by:

1. **Establishing national policy and basic legal structures** for sound chemicals management, including securing the right of consumers to access information relevant to health, safety and environmental protection.
2. **Collecting chemicals in products information** to be used for regulatory improvement and other purposes.
3. **Actively promoting the CiP Programme to industry and other Governments** to encourage industry participation in chemicals in products information exchange programs, and providing incentives to industry for participation.
4. **Engaging with stakeholders** to raise awareness and exchange information on chemicals in products. For example:
 - a. Promoting voluntary initiatives and collaboration;
 - b. Engaging in constructive dialogue with stakeholders to define information needs (i.e., relevant information for informed supply chain management or government decision-making that is available in appropriate formats) and how best to meet those needs;
 - c. Providing chemicals in products information, such as restricted substances lists, in accessible formats such as internet resources and chemical information databases to help stakeholders meet and anticipate regulatory requirements and non-regulatory actions, and engage in constructive dialogue on safer alternatives and green chemistry; and,
 - d. Raising awareness of the challenges and opportunities around chemicals in products information, considering the great diversity among consumers and other stakeholders.
5. **Providing chemicals in products information to the general public** to support consumers in making informed choices and in nudging industry towards better practices.
 - a. Establish legal structure for securing the right of consumers to access information relevant to health, safety and environmental protection.
 - b. Provide public consultation periods (encourage public participation) during the development of legal measures for chemicals of concern in products.
 - c. Raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities around chemicals in products information.

6. **Collaborating between Governments** to cooperatively create a forum to address global supply chains. This will enable further opportunities for:
 - a. Information-sharing between Governments, where the opportunity is presented;
 - b. Development of consistent requirements and specifications for chemicals in products information provided by industry (i.e., at the regional or global level) to enable more efficient stakeholder dialogue;
 - c. Coordination of consistent and aligned government responses; and,
 - d. Support for certain Governments lacking expertise relative to chemicals management (i.e., via technical assistance and information-sharing).
7. **Monitoring information on chemicals and waste streams of concern**, including information provided by upstream actors, such as on the location of materials/chemicals in products and identification methods.

Government Procurement

In addition to key Government initiatives and policy-making activities, Governments also have a significant role as consumers and may drive market change, through the purchasing of preferred or safer products or by linking purchases to provision of relevant chemicals in products information. Through the CiP Programme, Governments are encouraged to use public procurement to promote improved exchange of chemicals in products information, sound chemicals management and green chemistry, consistent with relevant legal obligations. As purchasers, governments have the power to influence markets and drive change, often to a significant degree. Public procurement strategies can send strong signals and stimulate innovation and change in the private sector. An example of such a program is Sweden's national strategy for public procurement⁽⁵⁾ governed by the *Swedish Public Procurement Act*. This program ensures that procurement is sustainable and environmentally friendly by implementing either a limitation on certain substances or substance groups in both goods and chemical products, or by banning the use of substances with certain characteristics in products.

Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition

The CiP Programme draws special attention to the needs and capacities of stakeholders in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, due to particular conditions of these countries (i.e., lack of capacity, budget and/or trained personnel to develop encompassing policy and to collect/monitor chemicals in products information).

The CiP Programme encourages Governments in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to draw on useful examples of existing systems and best practices in developed countries, jurisdictions and markets, to effectively play their roles and strengthen their regulatory frameworks for chemicals management. These Governments can encourage and facilitate the exchange and management of chemicals in products information by helping to identify their in-country specific information and capacity needs, enabling Governments in developed countries to provide information, and contribute to capacity-building activities towards improved life cycle management of all chemicals in the developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Governments in developed countries should seek opportunities, where possible, to support other Governments as the CiP Programme is a forum that promotes and encourages such an exchange of experience.

For More Information on the CiP Programme, see the following:

UN Environment SAICM CiP Website: <http://www.saicm.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5473>

⁽¹⁾ *The Chemicals in Products Programme:*

http://drustage.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/sites/unep.org.chemicalsandwaste/files/publications/CiP%20programme%20October2015_Final.pdf

⁽²⁾ *The Chemicals in Products Programme: Guidance for stakeholders on exchanging chemicals in products information:*

http://drustage.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/sites/unep.org.chemicalsandwaste/files/publications/Guidance%20for%20Stakeholder%20in%20Exchanging%20CiP%20Information_October2015.pdf

⁽³⁾ *Summary Guidance Document for Industry:*

http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21228/CiPProgramme_Industry%20Extract_FINAL.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

⁽⁴⁾ *Summary Guidance Document for Civil Society:*

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21229/NGO%20Practical%20Guide%20on%20CiP%20Programme%20implementation.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

⁽⁵⁾ *Sweden's national strategy for public procurement:* <http://www.upphandlingsmyndigheten.se/en>

UN Environment web clearinghouse for stakeholder CiP programs/projects:

<http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/chemicals-products-information-exchange-concrete-action>