



# Chemicals in products

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## Proponents

European Union

Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety

Government of Japan

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## Outline

- Introduction to the issue
- Preparatory work
- Relevance to the criteria
- Description of the proposed co-operative action

## Information on chemicals in products as an emerging issue



Strategic Approach  
to International  
Chemicals Management

- Main objective to promote the implementation of paragraph 15 (b)<sup>1</sup> of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach;

*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....”.*

1) taking into account paragraph 15 (c) of the strategic approach

## Proposed action



Strategic Approach  
to International  
Chemicals Management

- Establishing of a working group for information on chemicals in products to promote the fulfilment of the SAICM 2020 goal with a special emphasis 15 (b) of the overarching policy objective

## Rationale for proposed co-operative action

- Current efforts and capacities are not sufficient for informed decision making
- The need to improve the accessibility and availability of information about chemicals in products has been identified in order to avoid a patchwork of information systems while maximizing benefits to all stakeholders

## Example of products



## Informal consultation

- The consultation processes followed the guidance from the Secretariat
- First draft developed was based on the Informal international workshop "Stakeholders information needs on Chemicals in Products." (Geneva Feb 2009) and the report Toxic substances in articles: The need for information. Nordic Council of Ministers. <http://www.norden.org/pub/sk/showpub.asp?pubnr=2008:596>
- Governments, NGOs, and industry participated actively in the consultation process and the development of the background information document and the proposed co-operative action.
- Common understanding of the need to address this emerging policy issue. A commonality across some of the problems, needs and proposed actions.



## Meeting the criteria

## Magnitude of the problem

- International trade results in chemicals, including chemicals in products is being transported among regions.
- This has caused adverse impacts in particular cases and may pose future risks to human health and the environment at different stages of the life cycle of a product: during production, use, recycling or disposal.
- This gives the issue of chemical substances in products a global dimension, and appropriate global efforts should be considered

## The relevance of the issue to countries or regions and stakeholders

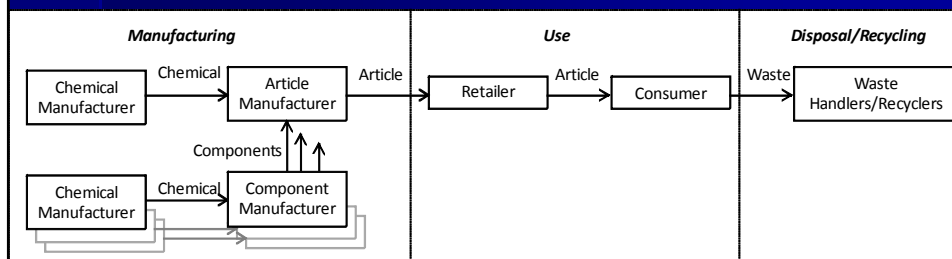
- The consultative process recognises the issue as being of relevance to a range of different stakeholders, regions and countries.



## The extent to which the issue is a cross-cutting nature

- Through out the life cycle, the chemicals contained in a product move along the supply chain and may cause risks to human health and the environment along this chain.

Simplified Life Cycle Diagram



## The level of knowledge about the issue

- There is no widespread or systemic level of knowledge on how information of chemicals in products could be best consolidated, disseminated and made accessible.
- There is a general lack of awareness through out the life cycle

## The extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies

- Certain ongoing work with relevance to this emerging issue (OECD, Industry)
- Current efforts and capacities are not sufficient for informed decision making to protect human health and the environment
- Extent judge not sufficient to implement OPS 15 (b)

## The feasibility of the action proposed

- The consultative process indicates a common understanding of the need to address this emerging policy issue and identified possible feasible co-operative actions with in the SAICM process.
- Improved information flow can stimulate development and demand for new products, reduce business risks and result in economic benefits



## Proposed co-operative action

### Proposed co-operative action

SAICM/ICCM.2/10/Add.1

- Establishing of a working group for information on chemicals in products to promote the fulfilment of the SAICM 2020 goal with a special emphasis 15 (b) of the overarching policy objective

## The proposed working group will:

- a) Review existing information systems pertaining to chemicals in products, together with other relevant information;
- b) Develop a proposal for an information system or framework of systems and actions, where appropriate, to promote implementation of the Strategic Approach with regard to information about chemicals in products.

## The proposed working group will give priority to the following issues:

- a) Identifying and prioritizing product groups
- b) Determining scientifically the hazardous chemicals of concern;
- c) Identifying the relevant stakeholders and their specific information needs,

**The proposed working group will give priority to the following issues (2):**

- d) Providing additional information on how Governments and stakeholders will gain access to the proposed information system(s) and how it (they) will operate;
- e) Analysing the costs and benefits to industry, Governments and others in providing and gaining access to the information system(s),
- f) Devising appropriate methods to make information on chemicals in products available to all stakeholders.

**The WG shall take into account:**

- Complementary activities of other relevant emerging issues;
- Work and activities undertaken in other multilateral or international forums with a relevance to information systems,
- Work undertaken within individual industry sectors;
- Specific challenges and needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,
- Special needs of small-sized and medium-sized enterprises and the informal sector, as appropriate.

## Rationale for proposed co-operative action

- Cooperative action is needed at all levels
- Initiatives have been taken by Governments, industry and others, but no comprehensive international actions have been developed

## Summary

- The comments received showed a general support for the need for further work on an international level for this emerging issue.
- The proposed working group should carry out its task according to the guidance given in SAICM/ICCM.2/10/Add.1