Globally Harmonised System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

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COUNTRY PRESENTATION - GHANA

Sam Adu-Kumi, PhD
Michael Onwona-Kwakye, PhD

Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
Order of Presentation

❖ Introduction: Ghana’s commitment to GHS implementation
❖ National Chemicals Landscape: Chemical regulatory framework, industry overview, existing national committee, …
❖ GHS Implementation Status: Previous GHS related activities & how the implementation process will be organized
❖ Responsibilities of Governmental Institutions: Roles of identified institutions for GHS implementation, including compliance, enforcement, etc.
❖ Responsibilities of Other Stakeholders: Involvement/Contribution of industry, private sector, civil society groups, and IGOs
❖ GHS Implementation Challenges (Anticipated)
❖ Level of Ambition in implementing GHS in Ghana
Introduction

❖ Ghana recognizes the importance of GHS as an internationally-harmonized approach to classification and labelling of chemicals that provides the foundation for safe handling of chemicals and products.

❖ GHS is an effective tool that supports standardized labelling, classification and communication of hazard information to a wide variety of stakeholders.

❖ Implementation of GHS in Ghana is recognized as a sure key and a priority tool for the implementation of Ghana’s 10-year Strategic Plan for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste (2021-2030), the achievement of the national development agenda as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Ghana.
National Chemicals Landscape
Sound Management of Chemicals & Waste in Ghana

❖ National Focal Institution:

- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Ghana** under the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI)
- **Chemicals Control and Management Centre (CCMC)** a directorate of EPA established in 1996 implements sound management of chemicals and wastes programmes in Ghana
- **EPA (CCMC) serves as the National Focal Point for all Chemicals and Waste -Related MEAs & Frameworks**
Core Objectives and Mandates of CCMC (1/2)

❖ Core objective of CCMC:

Protection of human health and the environment from the potential harmful effects of chemicals by ensuring the co-existence of the general population with chemical substances through the maximization of their benefits whilst minimizing adverse health and environmental impacts.
CCMC derives its mandate from:

- Section 10 of Part One of EPA Act, 1994 (Act 490)
- Part Two of the EPA Act, 1994 (Act 490) which provides for the control and management of pesticides in Ghana
- Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2016 (Act 917) and the Hazardous, Electronics and other Wastes (Classification), Control and Management Regulations, 2016 (LI 2250)
CCMC Core Activities

- Pesticide registration & Licensing (Part II of EPA Act 490)
- Control and management of industrial and consumer chemicals (preparation of a new Act is underway)
- Control and management of hazardous waste/obsolete chemicals including their transport, storage and their disposal (Act 917 and L.I. 2250)
- Implementation of chemicals and waste-related MEAs and frameworks


Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (2001)

The UN Convention on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Vienna Convention) (1985)

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987)

London Amendment of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1990)


Minamata Convention on Mercury (2013)

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
Chemical Industry in Ghana – Overview

❖ Ghana's chemical industry is diverse and includes:
  ▪ Pesticides, fertilizers, aluminum smelting, light manufacturing, furniture, paints, steel, cement, food processing, textile etc.

❖ The chemical sector contributes approx. 6% of the National GDP and about 11% of Ghana's manufacturing GDP

❖ Ghana is a net importer of chemicals and its imported chemicals reached an approximate value of 1.1 billion U.S. dollars (Statista, 2019), the highest import value was achieved in 2012, approx. 1.4 billion U.S. dollars (Statista, 2022)
Several national committees on chemicals and waste exist or are proposed, including the following:

1. Pesticides Technical Committee (PTC)
2. Hazardous Technical Committee (HCC)
3. National Coordination Team (NCT) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
4. Minamata Convention Implementation Committee (MCIC)
5. National Chemicals Committee (NCC, proposed under revision of EPA Act 490)
6. Special Programme Project Steering Committee (SP PSC)
7. National Chemicals and Waste-related MEAs and Frameworks Coordinating Committee (NC&WMFCC, proposed as an overarching coordination mechanism under 10-year Strategic Plan for SMCW)
Implementation Status in Ghana
As part of the preparation towards Ghana’s adoption of the GHS, an introductory workshop was organized from 30\textsuperscript{th} to 31\textsuperscript{st} January, 2019.

Funding: Government of Germany, ICCA

Technical Support: UNITAR

Project Goal (Overall):

To contribute to protecting human health and the environment by training relevant stakeholders on the GHS, developing and finalizing a national GHS implementation strategy and initiating a process to adopt the GHS as a national legislation
Workshop Objectives:

- Raise awareness on the importance of GHS implementation in Ghana; and
- Solicit support, cooperation and commitment from the relevant national stakeholders and Ghana's development partners for the implementation of GHS in Ghana.

Target Audience: More than sixty (60) participants attended, including:

- Policy makers;
- Industry;
- Academia/research institutions;
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs);
- Media; and
- Ghana’s development partners.
Workshop Outcomes:

The expected outcomes of the workshop were as follows:

❖ Well-sensitized and motivated participants on GHS;
❖ A set of needs per sector (agriculture, transport, workplace and consumer products) to support the development of a national strategy; and
❖ Workshop report and recommendations.

GHS application and anticipated benefits for Ghana:

❖ Enhancing the protection of human health and the environment by providing an internationally understood system;
❖ Facilitating international trade in chemicals whose hazards have been identified on an international basis;
❖ Reducing the need for testing & evaluation against multiple classification systems.
❖ Promoting Government of Ghana Flagship programmes, particularly the Planting for Food and Jobs Programme, and the One District One Factory (1D1F) Programme.
Benefits to chemical industry:
❖ A safer work environment and improved relations with employees;
❖ Expanded use of training programmes on health and safety;
❖ Reduced costs due to fewer accidents and illnesses; and
❖ Improved corporate image and credibility.

Benefits to workers and the public:
❖ Improved safety through consistent and simplified communications on chemical hazards, risk management of risk, including safe handling and use; and
❖ Greater awareness of hazards, resulting in safer use of chemicals in the workplace and in the home.
**Group Discussions:**

Four groups, namely, Agriculture, Consumer Products, Transport and Workplace were constituted to discuss the following questions:

1. What is currently in place in practice in relation to hazard classification and communication in the sector?
2. Which stakeholders or actors need to be included to ensure comprehensive development of the GHS strategy?
3. What needs to be in place to facilitate GHS implementation in the sector?
4. Would you see any benefits/disadvantages to an overarching law on the GHS covering all sectors?
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Proposed GHS Implementation Process

❖ Kick-start Priority Setting Workshop – Building on Introductory Workshop of 2019

❖ Set up GHS Project Implementation Unit: National Project Director, National Project Coordinator, Project Support Staff

❖ Establish GHS National Coordination Mechanism: GHS Implementation Coordinating Committee (Build on Special Programme Project Steering Committee) and Technical Working Group

❖ Strategy: Step by step or sector specific process
Responsibilities of Governmental Institutions
Under the Special Programme project, more than forty (40) government institutions have been identified as SATELLITE FOCAL INSTITUTIONS. Staff (SATellite Focal POINTs) of these institutions have received training on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

The focal institutions are expected to collaborate with EPA (National Focal Institution for SMCW) in mainstreaming SMCW into the national development agenda.

A Joint institutional action for SMCW (2021-2030) have been developed, including the implementation of GHS in relevant sectors/institutions.
Roles and Responsibilities of Identified Governmental Institutions (2/2)

- Compliance and enforcement on measures to prevent or where not feasible minimize harm from chemicals and waste
- Research (information and data generation) for informed policy decisions
- Identification and mobilization of adequate and sustainable financial and non-financial resources
- Identification and prioritisation of emerging issues of national and international concern
- Promotion of sustainable consumption and production through the use of safer alternatives and innovative solutions to prevent or minimise risk to human health and the environment.
OUR STAKEHOLDERS - Responsibilities

THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION & LABELLING OF CHEMICALS
All stakeholders everywhere at every time:

Development Partners
Government Ministries, Department and Agencies
Industry and manufacturers
Down stream users
Customers
Retailers
Consumers
IGOs, NGOs and CSOs
Roles and Responsibilities of Other Stakeholders

- Advocacy, Education and Awareness
- Research (Information and data generation) for informed policy decisions
- Identification and mobilization of adequate and sustainable financial and non-financial resources
Implementation Challenges (Anticipated)
GHS Implementation Challenges (Anticipated)

- Lack of collaboration/cooperation from stakeholders
- Inadequate and unsustainable financial and non-financial resources for GHS implementation
- Lack of proper information management system for sound management of chemicals and waste
- Unsound disposal of obsolete or unwanted hazardous chemicals and wastes poses a great challenge for regulatory authorities in Ghana due to lack of sound knowledge on GHS
Level of Ambition in implementing GHS in Ghana
A comprehensive policy and legal framework for the implementation of GHS is urgently needed – WE CAN’T WAIT FURTHER !!!

**10-Year Strategic Plan on SMCW Target:**
By 2022, the United Nations Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in all relevant sectors of the economy officially adopted and fully implemented by 2025.
THANKS FOR THE KIND ATTENTION

Questions and Discussions