



Benefits of establishing an industrial chemicals management system

23 May 2017, Jerusalem, Israel

Sylvie Poret



BENEFITS OF OECD MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN THE OECD EHS PROGRAMME



Benefits of OECD Membership

I. Support for domestic reform:

- Access to OECD expertise;
- Exchange of best practices.



Benefits of OECD Membership

II. Shaping global debates:

- Participation in OECD policy discussions;
- Participation in standard-setting and the development of OECD legal instruments.



Benefits of OECD Membership

III. Promoting efficiency:

- Greater harmonisation for greater efficiency;
- Levelling the Playing Field for Businesses, Saving Money for Taxpayers.



OECD EHS Programme

Main objectives of the OECD *Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Programme* are to:

- assist OECD Member countries in efforts to protect human health and the environment through improving chemical safety and biosafety;
- make chemical control policies more transparent and efficient and save resources for government and industry;
- prevent unnecessary distortions in the trade of chemicals, chemical products and products of modern biotechnology.



Benefits of participation in the OECD EHS Programme

- Annual savings for governments and the industry are estimated to be no less than EUR 153 million.
- It includes costs of:
 - Government assessments;
 - Testing of chemicals (Mutual Acceptance of Data);
 - Industry reporting.



Qualitative benefits of participation in the OECD EHS Programme

- Development of technical instruments, approaches and methodologies that improve the quality of chemical evaluations and regulations;
- Helps avoiding duplication, finding efficiencies and resource savings, e.g. more chemicals can be evaluated, and action taken if necessary, than if countries work independently;
- Access to information and advice from countries with different policy experience (forum of information exchange);
- Creation of networks among government and industry experts in OECD countries;
- Increased availability of safety data on chemicals (e.g. [eChem Portal](#));
- Reduction in animal testing.



OVERALL BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING AN INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Challenges/limitations in estimating the benefits of industrial chemicals management systems

- Such systems have been established relatively recently in comparison with the time needed to appropriately assess their impact on human health and the environment;
- They are focused on a preventive approach to chemicals management;
- Exposure-response data between many chemicals and their health and/or environmental effects is missing;
- Data available in many cases relates to single chemicals (or chemical categories) or specific human/environmental endpoints.



Generic benefits – OECD Members' view

- An integrated, government-wide approach to chemicals and avoiding duplication of efforts;
- Targeted action on chemicals of high concern;
- Predictable timelines for stakeholders involved;
- Improved protection of workers and the general public from chemical hazards;
- Enhanced stakeholder engagement (e.g. promoting preventive measures by industry);
- Enhanced governments' reputation for chemicals management.



Benefits for trade

- Minimization of non-tariff trade barriers (e.g. reduction of delays for marketing of new products ; improving national reputation as a place to *Do Business*);
- Facilitation of the international trade in chemicals (e.g. securing and boosting exports through meeting international product standards)



Benefits related to human health

- Reduction of public spending on healthcare related to e.g.:
 - fewer chemical accidents and incidents;
 - reduction in the occurrence of occupational diseases;
 - reduced exposure of the general public to dangerous chemicals;
 - increased awareness of the general public on how safely use chemicals.

- Reduction of productivity loss;

- Improved quality of life and the environment.



Benefits related to the environment

- Reduction of public spending related to e.g.:
 - reduced environmental damage;
 - reduced spending of public money on remediation measures;
 - reduced exposure of the environment to the hazardous chemicals.



BENEFITS FOR INDUSTRY



Role of the industry

To secure appropriate functioning of the systematic and comprehensive industrial chemicals management system, involvement of industry is essential as the industry:

- has the technical expertise for generating the environmental health and safety data on chemicals;
- can disseminate the safety data within the supply chain;
- has an important role to play in relation to the occupational safety.



Benefits for the industry

- creating more predictable market conditions;
- avoidance of duplication of testing for products which are marketed in more than one country;
- reduction of delays for marketing of new products;
- minimization of non-tariff trade barriers;
- securing and boosting exports through meeting international product standards.



Benefits for the industry

- harmonized standards mean reduced costs for compliance and reduction of the number of unregulated chemicals on the market (a level playing field);
- prevention of business risks related to liability claims;
- increasing workers' health (fewer accidents and illnesses), well-being and productivity;
- application of expert systems resulting in maximizing expert resources and minimizing labour and costs;
- potential competitive advantage.



BENEFITS FOR GENERAL PUBLIC



Benefits for the society

- Better quality of the environment and life, incl.
 - reduced number of pollutants, covered by the industrial chemicals management systems, in water, air and soil;
 - reduced environmental damage;
 - safer products on the market e.g. by:
 - restrictions and prohibitions of certain chemicals of high concern;
 - providing more balanced approach to cost burden of chemicals management and thus encouraging the industry to apply improved risk management measures;
 - reduction of the number of unregulated chemicals on the market.



Benefits for the society

- Reduced exposure to dangerous chemicals:
 - reduction of the number of accidents related to the chemicals (e.g. intoxications);
 - improved safety for workers through consistent and simplified communications on chemical hazards (e.g. via labelling of chemical products);
 - reduction in the occurrence of occupational diseases.



Benefits for the society

- Increased awareness:
 - constant communication of practices to follow for safe handling and use of chemicals;
 - greater awareness of hazards, resulting in safer use of chemicals in the workplace and at home;
 - enhanced confidence that authorities and industry are properly managing risks related to chemicals;
 - by having access to the publically available information on chemicals, the general public can take informed decisions on chemical products.



Additional information

- OECD legal instruments on chemicals:
<http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/oecdouncilactsrelatedtochemicals.htm>
- OECD work on chemicals:
<http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/>
- eCHEM Portal:
<http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-assessment/echempportalglobalportaltoinformationonchemicalsubstances.htm>
- OECD SACAME project:
<https://www.oecd.org/env/tools-evaluation/sacame.htm>



Thank you!