

1. Chemicals

Phase-out of substances of global concern

Sweden considers that substances causing serious global concern should be phased out from uses involving high risk. Work at international level is needed to identify, prioritise and control substances whose use today poses environmental and health risks from a global perspective.

It is very important to implement and enhance international agreements for safe handling of chemicals in Sweden and globally. Certain chemical substances have particularly hazardous properties and may be difficult or even impossible to manage without appreciable risks to humans or the environment. Strong global measures have been taken against the production and use for example of ozone-depleting substances (the Montreal Protocol). The production and use of certain persistent organic pollutants has also been made the subject of tight regulation under the Stockholm Convention. The Rotterdam Convention sets forth requirements for information to the recipient country before certain substances may be exported. An overarching problem with several conventions on chemicals is that to date it has not been possible to agree on strong compliance mechanisms. There is also a lack of instruments for international measures for many substances with properties that pose risks to health and the environment. This may apply for example to organic substances that are persistent and toxic without meeting the criteria for POPs under the Stockholm Convention or certain metals with properties hazardous to health and the environment. Sweden welcomes the decision by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in the spring of 2009 to negotiate a binding agreement by 2013 to limit emissions and trading in mercury. A goal for international work on chemicals should be for substances of global concern to be phased out from uses involving high risk. Work is needed at international level to identify and prioritise such substances. The results can form the basis of safe handling and phase-out primarily from uses where the substances to a great extent are dispersed in the environment and there is limited possibility of recycling.

Improved information on chemicals in articles through international cooperation

Sweden has made considerable progress in dealing with large local point emissions, for example from wastewater systems, industrial plants and waste management. The difficulties faced in Swedish work on chemicals control today are principally due to the diffuse emissions of substances harmful to the environment and health from articles, to unintended substances being formed in industrial and combustion processes that may be emitted in flue gases and waste, and to persistent and bioaccumulative

substances already dispersed in the environment remaining for a long period. Diffuse sources such as chemicals in articles have increased in significance.

The information on chemical substances in articles should be improved through international cooperation. International trading in articles containing hazardous chemicals entails significant global dispersal of hazardous substances. Opportunities for the substances to be managed safely throughout the lifecycle of the article are improved by access to information. Increased access to information on chemicals in the management chain also makes possible increased material recovery, reduced quantities of waste and reduced risks to health and the environment.

Today international requirements for information transfer do not cover hazardous substances that are transported globally in articles and that can be emitted from the articles during use and at the waste stage. This applies for example to hazardous substances in toys, electronics and textiles. The increased turnover of consumer goods signifies increased diffuse dispersal of chemical substances in both the use and waste stages. This diffuse dispersal also signifies increased exposure to a number of different substances, the aggregate effect of which has been inadequately investigated. In most cases it is not intended that the substances contained in the articles will be released during use. There are, however, examples of this happening, for example in washing (nonylphenol, silver). A large proportion of the articles consumed in Sweden are produced in countries where there may be inadequate control and consideration of environmental and working conditions. The problems concerning the substances in articles therefore also relate to lifestyle, sustainable development and global fairness, as well as direct risks to health and the environment.

Human and environmental exposure to certain chemicals takes place predominantly during the use or disposal of the article. There are examples of hazardous substances in articles having caused serious effects, for example in children exposed to lead in jewellery or toys. Risks associated with the extensive trade in discarded electronics have attracted attention in several contexts, such as in an African study conducted by UNEP with Swedish support as part of the scientific evaluations of lead and cadmium. As the production and trade chains for articles are often long and may pass through various countries, efforts to improve access to information on the substances in articles, for example by developing information systems, need to be made at the international level.

The objective in the global chemicals strategy SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management) adopted in 2006 is for all actors to have access to knowledge and information on hazardous substances by 2020 so that these can be assessed and managed in a safe way throughout their lifecycle. This objective covers information on chemicals in articles. If it is to be possible for this objective to become reality, there is a need for specific work to identify and prioritise substances, product groups, the needs of various actors for information and possible ways of providing and disseminating information, as well as an analysis of costs and benefits.

On a Swedish initiative, the EU notified the issue of the need for international collaboration to increase knowledge and access to information on the presence of hazardous substances in articles as what is known as an Emerging Policy Issue in SAICM. Proposals for international work were drawn up after an informal international workshop held in February 2009, which was arranged by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) with support from Sweden, Japan and the Nordic Council of Ministers. A consensus emerged at the workshop, attended by more than 60 countries and stakeholder organisations, companies, industrial sectors and research institutes, that international trade leads to hazardous chemicals in articles being dispersed, which may pose global problems. A conclusion from the workshop was that access to information on substances contained in articles must be improved to make it possible for the substances to be managed more safely by affected actors throughout the article's lifecycle.

Sweden welcomes the fact that SAICM has decided that information on chemicals in articles should be an Emerging Policy Issue. This happened at the second high-level meeting of SAICM, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) in May 2009, when the proposal was discussed as one of four prioritised policy issues. The parties unanimously decided that there is a need for global efforts to improve access to information on chemicals in articles (e.g. computers, textiles, toys, furniture) and therefore to launch a project directed by UNEP. The project will gather and review information on existing information systems on chemicals in articles and analyse various actors' needs for information, after which an analysis will be made of the need for further information systems. A recommendation will be made under the project on future work for discussion at a preparatory working group meeting in 2011 and for a decision at the next ICCM which is due to be held in 2012.

Knowledge building on the health and environmental properties of chemical substances

The majority of rules on chemicals today are common throughout the EU. The EU's new legislation on chemicals, REACH, replaces a large proportion of the rules in the area of chemicals that applied before 1 June 2007 in Sweden and the EU. Several parts of REACH offer opportunities for improved and more effective control of chemicals. Knowledge of the properties and dispersal of chemical substances is essential if we are to understand the ways in which the substances could harm public health and the environment and to enable us to prevent harm from occurring. The requirements for knowledge in REACH mean that companies to a greater extent than previously must develop knowledge of the health and environmental hazards of chemical substances. This information will be collated in a database at the European Chemicals Agency which for the most part will be accessible for the general public. Countries outside the EU can thus also benefit from the information in the database. Sweden is pressing for the knowledge requirement to be gradually increased in REACH in conjunction with other reviews and updates and through strict application of the legislation.

Continuous decrease in health and environmental risks of chemical substances

The information produced according to the registration requirements in REACH provides what is needed for risk reduction throughout the product chain. Companies, public-sector actors and individual consumers all have an opportunity to choose the substances needed and to reject unsuitable, unnecessary and hazardous substances. REACH also lays the foundation for safe management of substances throughout the production chain as manufacturers and importers of substances have responsibility for carrying out risk assessments and recommending risk-management measures to companies that use these chemicals.

The Swedish Chemicals Agency's web-based tool PRIO, which is aimed in particular at small and medium-sized companies, can make it easier for companies to adapt to the requirements of legislation and support their development. The Swedish Chemicals Agency has also launched information initiatives on REACH and skills-enhancing measures for example in the form of dialogues between authorities and industry.

There are general rules on consideration in Swedish environmental legislation that have to be followed, as a measure may have consequences for health or the environment. One of these is the principle of product choice, which means that the use and sale of chemical products that may pose a risk to health or the environment have to be avoided if the products can be replaced by other less hazardous products. The precautionary

principle means that precautions have to be taken as soon as there is reason to assume that an activity or measure may cause harm or inconvenience to human health or the environment.

New risks may arise as a result of technical development. Rapid development in nanotechnology means that research on health and environmental risks are judged to be particularly important in this field.

Increased diffuse dispersal, for example through articles, signifies exposure to a number of different substances, the aggregate effect of which needs to be investigated more closely.

2. Chemicals

Assessment of chemical risks

Sweden's work on the assessment of chemical risks

The Swedish Parliament has adopted sixteen ambitious environmental quality objectives. One of these environmental quality objectives is A Non-Toxic Environment, which is concerned with chemical substances. This objective means that the environment must be free from man-made or extracted compounds and metals that represent a threat to human health or biological diversity. The basic purpose of work on A Non-Toxic Environment is to prevent harm to human health or the environment from chemical substances, products and articles. The work takes place in coordination with other environmental quality objectives in a common action strategy for non-toxic and resource-efficient cycles, which aims to reduce the use of natural resources, reduce emissions of environmental toxins and create energy- and material-efficient cycles. The quantity and hazardousness of chemicals can only be influenced to a limited degree by national measures, and much of Sweden's work in this area is focused on pursuing the issues regionally in the EU and internationally. The Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI) is Sweden's central supervisory agency with responsibility for chemical control and is the government agency responsible for the environmental quality objective A Non-Toxic Environment.

The most important task of preventive chemicals control is to prevent harm from occurring to humans and the environment. Knowledge is required to accomplish this. Knowledge of the properties and dispersal of chemical substances is essential if we are to understand the ways in which the substances could harm public health and the environment and prevent harm from occurring. This knowledge needs to be passed on to those who use the chemical substances and products so that they can do so safely. The knowledge requirements in the EU's new chemicals regulation means

that companies have to develop knowledge of the health and environmental hazards of chemical substances to a greater extent than previously. Sweden is pressing for the required level of knowledge to be gradually raised in REACH in conjunction with various reviews and updates and through strict application of the legislation. The Swedish Government has established a national REACH Council, to promote information and collaboration between industry, government agencies and other affected stakeholders on issues concerned with national implementation of REACH. Training initiatives relating to REACH are also coordinated here.

New risks may arise as a result of technical development. Because of the rapid development in nanotechnology, research on health and environmental risks is regarded as particularly important in this field. The Swedish Chemicals Agency, acting on behalf of the Government, has collated knowledge on the risks associated with nanotechnology and has proposed measures. The Agency is continuing to monitor development in this area and is taking part in the development of new test methods in order to assess health and environmental risks. This work is principally focused on knowledge building and knowledge dissemination with regard to nanotechnology and on assisting in the development of appropriate test methods. This work takes place mainly in the OECD.

Sweden has developed a functioning system to monitor the state of the environment and identify changes. This environmental monitoring involves repeated systematically arranged studies that point to the state of and changes in the air, in water and in the sea. It is a tool for assessing changes principally in what we already know and can refer back to, but work is also constantly in progress to find potential new environmental toxins. The studies make it possible to detect whether certain chemical substances can cause health and environmental problems. They also provide an opportunity to see whether previously known environmental threats emerge in new places or in new contexts and also to identify new, previously unknown environmental threats. The long time series that exist nationally for measured effects on top predators such as white-tailed eagles, seals and otters can also be used to identify new environmental threats.

Knowledge of the health and environmental hazards of chemicals, together with knowledge of the use of chemicals, leads to ways of preventing new health and environmental problems in the future and remedying problems that have already arisen. Sweden has a good source of knowledge on the use of chemicals in the national products register of the Swedish Chemicals Agency. Under national legislation, chemicals have to be registered when

the product is manufactured in Sweden or imported into Sweden from another country. Information is supplied directly from responsible companies to the central register. The register can provide a snapshot of current chemical use. Flow analyses show how individual substances are used in Sweden and in what products particular substances are present. Trends can be viewed over several years. This can provide a picture of what substances can be expected to be dispersed in society and gradually in waste and sewage treatment plants and makes effective follow-up and evaluation of measures possible.

EU rules for the assessment of chemical risks

The majority of rules on chemicals today are common throughout the EU. Sweden has been a Member State of the EU since 1995 and the laws that apply in the EU thus also do so in Sweden, either through implementation in Swedish legislation or through a directly applicable Regulation. Swedish authorities monitor and continuously take part in the work of the Commission's expert groups and in Council working groups, in order to be able to influence the drafting of legislation.

Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) is legislation on chemicals that replaces a large proportion of the rules that applied in Sweden and the EU prior to 1 June 2007. During the years when REACH was being developed, Sweden was closely involved in working groups and negotiations and continues to be heavily involved in the application and updating of REACH. Sweden was particularly active in pursuing issues concerned with stringent requirements for knowledge of chemical substances and information on the content of hazardous chemical substances in articles.

REACH is based on the principle that it is manufacturers, importers and downstream users who are responsible for making sure that substances they develop, place on the market or use do not harm human health or the environment. The provisions cover chemical substances, both as such and as part of a mixture. Responsibility for making risk assessments and conducting tests is borne by industry, which also has to supply information on the substance to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). The information on chemical substances developed in REACH must be passed on to those who use the substance so that the user can manage any risks in a safe manner. Where waste is recycled and the recycling process means that a new substance, preparation or article is formed, this is covered by the requirements contained in REACH in exactly the same way as other substances, preparations or articles.

Certain substances of very high concern for health and the environment will only be used with special permission. A first list of proposals for such substances has now been published on the ECHA website (www.echa.eu). Sweden has contributed two of the proposals (HBCDD and DEHP) and is continuing with preparations in order to add more substances to the list. The objective in this authorisation procedure is to gradually replace those substances that have the properties of greatest concern for health and the environment with safer alternative substances or techniques.

Articles are covered by certain new requirements, but in themselves mainly fall outside REACH. The risk assessments made according to REACH will cover the use of a chemical substance in articles and the exposure this can lead to. Suppliers of articles are required to provide information to those who use the article professionally if substances of very high concern are present above a certain percentage by weight. Consumers are also given the right to receive such information on request.

A steadily increasing proportion of the production of articles today takes place in countries outside the EU. Sweden therefore considers there to be a need for work at the international level to identify and prioritise substances transported through the global trade in articles. On a Swedish initiative, the EU has notified the issue of the need for international collaboration to increase knowledge and information on the presence of hazardous substances in articles, and SAICM decided in May 2009 that this should be an 'emerging policy issue'.

Prior to REACH coming into force, Sweden was active in EU work on risk assessment of both new and existing substances under the previously applicable rules. Sweden was the rapporteur for four substances in the EU programme for existing substances (HBCDD, DEHP, diantimony trioxide and piperazine). At the same time, Sweden has actively taken part in and commented on the risk assessments of chemical substances by other countries. It has also been active in a working group that has assessed the persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic properties of chemical substances. The designated substances may come into consideration for various restrictions or permit appraisal under REACH on the basis of their particularly hazardous properties.

The globally harmonised system for the classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS) adopted by the UN has been introduced into EU legislation in the form of a regulation on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP), which came into force on 20 January 2009. This Regulation is the EU response to the UN's request in Johannesburg in 2002 for all the world's nations to introduce rules based

on GHS. Swedish companies have to have migrated to CLP for substances by 1 December 2010 and for mixtures by 1 June 2015.

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) will establish and administer a public classification and labelling register in the form of a database to which manufacturers and importers are obliged to report their classifications of substances with effect from 1 December 2010. The register will cover all substances registered under the REACH Regulation and all substances that are placed on the market and fulfil the criteria to be classified as hazardous according to CLP, either in themselves or in a mixture above the concentration limits that cause the mixture to be classified as hazardous.

A new plant protection product regulation that governs the placing on the market of plant protection products has been negotiated and was approved by the European Parliament in January 2009. This Regulation will replace the current Directive 91/414/EEC. The new rules agree in several major areas with previous Swedish rules and principles for the testing of pesticides, as a result of Sweden having actively pursued this issues. The Biocides Directive, which came into effect in 2000, is aimed at harmonising the internal market for biocidal products. Application of the Directive entails requirements for the approval of 23 different product types, eleven of which are new for Sweden. The requirement for approval contributes to raising the level of protection for health and the environment. A revision of the Directive has started. Sweden is actively taking part in the joint programme for the risk assessment of plant protection products and biocides which is taking place in the EU and is implementing national initiatives.

Sound management of hazardous chemicals

The use of chemicals is an important aspect of society and is often needed to obtain a desired function in many products and services. But incorrect handling can lead to costly harm to health and the environment.

Knowledge of the health and environmental hazards of chemical substances is essential to safe handling in manufacturing, use and recycling and at the waste stage. Sweden has written an obligation into national legislation for all who run a business to carry out the protective measures and take the precautions needed to prevent harm to human health or the environment.

Sweden has made considerable progress in dealing with large local point emissions, for example from wastewater systems, industrial plants and waste management. In our endeavour to recycle and reuse valuable resources, for example in the form of sludge and filler, we must take

account of the risk of the accumulation of and exposure to undesirable/toxic substances in our local environment and in products. A number of national measures have been taken in the area of waste, see the chapter on waste management. The difficulties in Swedish work on chemicals control today are principally due to the diffuse dispersal of substances harmful to the environment and health from articles, to unintended substances being formed in industrial and combustion processes that may be emitted in flue gases and waste, and to persistent and bioaccumulative substances already dispersed in the environment remaining for a long period. Diffuse sources such as chemicals in articles have increased in significance.

Phase-out and risk reduction of hazardous chemicals

Chemical substances with properties of very high concern are difficult to handle safely. Even small amounts can be harmful to humans and the environment. Sweden has therefore introduced a statutory requirement for companies to replace substances of very high concern as far as possible with less hazardous alternatives capable of fulfilling the same function or need. To reduce the risks associated with chemicals and phase out the most hazardous substances of all, Sweden continuously works on a number of different policy instruments: development of rules on restriction, supervision and enforcement of rules, information and dialogue with particular industries. Some examples are given below of important risk-reducing measures and activities undertaken in Sweden.

Sweden has a long tradition of successfully implementing national phase-out or severe restriction of hazardous substances such as PCBs, mercury, trichloroethylene and ozone-depleting substances. Work done in the past 20 years to reduce the risks of using pesticides in Sweden has been very successful, and a number of substances used previously are now no longer permitted. Since it became a member of the EU, Sweden has worked actively on risk limitation in relevant EU Directives and Regulations. Under the EU's previous *existing substances programme*, Sweden has taken risk-limiting measures for substances of very high concern such as phthalates and cadmium. Examples of substances where Sweden has pressed for phase-out in the *Limitations Directive* are flame retardants such as penta- and octabromodiphenyl ether, tributyltin, nickel, phthalates, mercury and PFOS.

Under the environmental quality objective A Protective Ozone Layer, the use of ozone-depleting substances is to be phased out in Sweden within a generation. This is one of the environmental objectives on which Sweden has made great progress in taking action.. There is no production of ozone-depleting substances in Sweden, but these substances have been used in

several different areas. Phase-out has therefore been focused on the use of these substances in the manufacturing for example of foamed plastic, new installation of equipment, topping up existing equipment and use as a working medium in existing equipment. A ban on the use of HCFCs is one of the few remaining measures Sweden can take to phase out remaining ozone-depleting substances nationally. A ban on installation and manufacturing for HCFCs came into effect in Sweden in 1998. Since 2002 there has also been a ban on topping up HCFCs for maintenance and servicing. Sweden has recently notified a proposal for a national ban on the use of HCFCs to be applied from 1 January 2015.

Under the work on the *Ecodesign Directive*, Sweden has contributed to the requirement for information on the mercury content of low-energy lamps to be declared through labelling on the packaging. This is necessary so that low-energy lamps can be recycled without mercury escaping into the environment. The *RoHS Directive* prohibits the use of mercury, cadmium, lead, hexavalent chromium and the flame retardants PBB and PBDE in new electrical and electronic products placed on the EU market after 1 July 2006. Sweden has accorded high priority to the revision of the *Toys Directive* in order to limit the use of substances hazardous to the environment and to health in toys. The now revised Directive signifies a ban on toys containing certain hazardous fragrances, certain hazardous metals and substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction.

The EU's current chemicals legislation *REACH* offers opportunities for the EU to act jointly against a large number of substances of very high concern through rules on authorisation and restriction. Permission from the ECHA is required for the use of substances of very high concern that have been prioritised in REACH. All other use of these substances will be prohibited. There will also be opportunities to introduce further restrictions for other hazardous substances. REACH also lays the foundation for safe handling of substances throughout the production chain as manufacturers and importers of substances are made responsible for carrying out risk assessments and recommending risk-management measures to companies using chemicals.

PRIO is a web-based tool to assist companies in work on risk reduction. It was launched by the Swedish Chemicals Agency in 2004 to improve knowledge of chemicals and how they should be handled. *PRIO* is also available in an English version on the Swedish Chemicals Agency website (www.kemi.se). *PRIO* can be used to search for substances and obtain information about environmental and health hazards, obtain information about those chemicals that must be prioritised for early phase-out, find

substances contained in substance groups and various product groups and obtain assistance in developing routines for purchasing, product development and risk management. PRIO can also be used for guidance in risk reduction work and as a database in which to search directly. The database contains around 4400 substances, all of which have properties that fulfil certain selection criteria. The criteria are drawn up on the basis of the national environmental objective A Non-Toxic Environment and REACH. PRIO was recently evaluated in relation to how the tool is used, who uses it and what effects it may have contributed to. Those questioned feel that PRIO among other things has contributed to increased knowledge of chemicals and how they are handled and that PRIO can be used in methodical risk reduction activity.

Dialogues between authorities and industry may drive increased awareness in industry of the need for information on the chemical content of articles and of risk reduction. Dialogues with a number of sectors has largely focused on products that contain substances of very high concern. In a dialogue conducted in 2008 with the textile industry, it emerged that importers in particular had limited knowledge of chemical issues and of the content of chemical substances in their own articles. The situation has improved since then, partly as a consequence of the Swedish Chemicals Agency arranging a seminar for the sector and producing information

Several different industrial sectors in Sweden have *developed their own systems to reduce risks associated with chemicals*. An example of this is BASTA, a sector-wide tool developed on the initiative of the construction sector. More than 45,000 different materials are used in the construction sector, many of which contain hazardous substances. BASTA identifies construction products that do not contain substances of very high concern. The tool has been developed in cooperation with Swedish government agencies, and the criteria in BASTA are partly based on the criteria in PRIO. The system makes it easier for purchasers in building companies to buy articles that do not contain substances of very high concern. The idea is that suppliers should be able to have their products registered in BASTA if they fulfil the BASTA requirements, so that the construction companies can then more easily find the “right” products.

In 2004 the Government expressed a desire for improved environmental information for pharmaceutical products, which led to the trade association of the pharmaceutical industry taking the initiative to develop a system for voluntary environmental classification of pharmaceutical substances.. The environmental information is based on data from the pharmaceutical companies. The project is taking place in cooperation between authorities, university researchers and pharmaceutical companies.

The Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL) acts as an independent reviewer of all environmental data. The first environmental classifications were published in October 2005, and this work will continue until all the groups of pharmaceutical products have been examined, which is expected to be the end of 2010.

Work to reduce risks associated with chemicals

The new plant protection products regulation dating from January 2009 is aimed among other things at raising the level of protection. The 'substitution principle' has been introduced, offering increased opportunities to require problematic products to be replaced by other safer products or methods. It will not be possible for substances of very high concern to be approved under the new regulation. The Council and the European Parliament agreed in January 2009 on a new framework directive to achieve sustainable use of pesticides in the Community. The Directive is made up of minimum rules that provide an important basis on which to implement significant risk-reduction measures for the use of pesticides. Among its most important aspects, mention can be made of requirements for Member States to introduce national action plans to reduce the risks associated with pesticides. A proposal for a Swedish action plan to achieve sustainable use of pesticides was drawn up in 2008. From the Swedish point of view, the Directive largely means confirming the measures that were already in place previously. There is a register at the Swedish Chemicals Agency containing data on approved and previously approved pesticide preparations in Sweden.

Following an appeal by Sweden against the decision of the European Commission to approve paraquat, an acutely toxic herbicide, the European Court of Justice in July 2007 found in Sweden's favour and declared the decision invalid. The European Court of Justice found that the approval of paraquat contravened Community rules on requirements for the production of human and animal health. The judgment was a victory for Sweden's interpretation of the rules contained in the Plant Protection Products Directive and for its restrictive position on the risks associated with plant protection products.

Sweden has for many years actively pursued and contributed to the establishment of a ban on using a group of active substances with potent endocrine-disrupting properties, as well as substances with persistent and bioaccumulative (PBT) properties in plant protection products for use in the EU. This applies to vinclozolin, procymidone and fenarimol and to lindane, trifluralin and endosulphan respectively.

Significance of supervision

An effective and competent supervisory organisation is an important instrument with which to attain the environmental objectives Sweden strives to achieve. The Swedish Chemicals Agency has supervisory guidance in the form of seminars, written guidance material (Advice and Tips, factsheets, website) and supports the inspectors of the municipalities and county administrative boards in various contexts. Swedish Chemical Agency supervision is often carried out in the form of collaborative projects with the municipalities. Most inspections relate to chemical products, but in recent years KemI has increased its supervisory efforts in relation to pesticides and chemical substances in articles, for instance rules on hazardous substances in electronics and articles containing perfluorinated substances.

More than 80 per cent of the companies which KemI is responsible for supervising import the products into Sweden from other countries. Supervision is a national matter, despite REACH and most other rules on chemicals being harmonised in the EU. KemI therefore cooperates with other supervisory authorities in the EU in various inspection projects. This cooperation partly takes place through the ECHA Forum for Information Exchange on Application of REACH, which coordinates and develops chemical supervision in the EU. The REACH Forum has adopted a three-year work programme for the period 2008-2010, which was drawn up by a working group chaired by Sweden. In 2009 Sweden is taking part in the first joint supervisory project focused on the supervision of substance manufacturers/importers subject to the requirement of pre-registration. The Swedish Chemicals Agency also cooperates with the other Nordic countries on joint inspection projects.