

## Chemicals

- **Assessment of chemical risks:**

The competent authority for chemicals in the Republic of Croatia is the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, which has undertaken necessary activities prescribed by national legislation and ordinances with the purpose of comprehensive national regulation of chemicals.

The main law in this respect is the Chemicals Act (OG 150/05, 53/08) and its associated by-laws, as well as the Act on the Implementation of the Regulation No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of Chemicals (OG 53/08) and The Act on Biocides (OG 63/07, 35/08).

- *Mechanisms for systematic evaluation, classification, and labeling of chemicals, including initiatives towards a harmonized system of classification and labeling of chemicals*

Amongst existing by-laws, the Ordinance on Classification, Labeling and Packaging of Chemicals (OG 23/08, 64/09), regulates systematic evaluation, classification, and labeling of chemicals. Initiatives towards a harmonized system (GHS and CLP) of classification and labeling of chemicals will begin soon pursuant to Croatia's National Programme for Accession to the European Union. Consequently, it is envisaged that the revised ordinance will be scheduled to enter into force during the second quarter of 2010. Implementation of GHS system will improve the national classification, labeling and packaging of chemicals, which currently is inadequate.

- *Initiatives for assessment of toxic chemicals, hazard and risk assessment, and participation in various international and regional initiatives*

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare actively supports initiatives for assessing toxic chemicals, hazard and risk assessment, by participating in several international and regional initiatives (i.e. for Central European countries). The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has started to control chemicals in articles (through boarder sanitary inspections) as a part of the international initiative for inspecting chemicals in products.

- *Strategies for exposure assessment and environmental monitoring and improvement in procedures for using toxicological and epidemiological data to predict and estimate the effects of chemicals on human health and the environment*

The National Strategy for Chemical Safety (OG 143/08) sets out objectives and activities, as well as, the need for information exchange and cooperation, data-quality assurance, application of assessment criteria, and linkages to risk management activities. According

to the REACH Regulation (OG 39/09), a Safety Data Sheet is mandatory for all chemical substances, and mixtures, so that all companies that import, export or produce chemicals have to provide such documentation and make it available to the end users of chemicals.

- *Information exchange and cooperation, data-quality assurance, application of assessment criteria, and linkages to risk management activities*

In order to accomplish all these activities, a project for capacity building and strengthening of administrative and technical capacities, supported by the IPA Program (European Union Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance) is currently being prepared. This will provide better collaboration between the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction (department in charge for inspection and Seveso Directive,), and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (department in charge for chemical safety). As a first step, this will provide a good foundation for requisite coordination and cooperation between the various administrative sectors, as well as with all other stakeholders in the area of chemical safety in Croatia.

- **Sound management of toxic chemicals**

- *Progress within the larger framework of Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*

The Director of the Directorate for Sanitary Inspection has been appointed by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare as the national focal point for SAICM. Since 2007, all information pertaining to SAICM is collected by the Directorate for Sanitary Inspection

- *Initiatives and innovations for risk reduction, particularly taking in to account the life cycle of the chemicals*

It is expected that national focal point will support and coordinate activities at the national level and towards improving coordination between different institutions and state administration regarding the collection of all relevant information on chemicals, including initiatives and innovations for risk reduction. The life cycle aspect of chemicals, as well as precautionary measures derived from broad-based life cycle analysis will be particularly taken into account in this exercise.

- *Policy measures to phase out chemicals that pose unreasonable and unmanageable risk to human health and human environment, such as, for example, ozone-depleting substances*

Croatian legislation is fully aligned with the provisions of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments. In Croatia, the production of ozone depleting substances (ODS) is prohibited. Since 1996, the National program for gradual phase-out of ODS has existed, which defines the consumption of ODS and recommends appropriate practical measurements and projects needed, for the gradual phase-out of ODS. The phasing-out of

substances that deplete the ozone layer has been progressing in Croatia in line with the Montreal Protocol. Furthermore, in early 2006, (i.e., 4 years before expiry of the deadline established in the Montreal Protocol), the consumption of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, carbon-tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, and methyl bromide was phased out. Over the forthcoming period, a significant reduction in the consumption of HCFC is expected as a result of the national ban on the import of products using these substances, which has been in effect since October 2005. Moreover, a complete phase-out of HCFC consumption is planned by 2016. In addition to this, the implementation of the HCFC Phase-out Management Plan is underway, which will contribute to reducing consumption levels of these substances in Croatia.

- ***Policies and frameworks for prevention of accidents, preparedness and response***

Pursuant to Croatia's National Strategy for Chemicals Safety the role of the Croatian Institute for Toxicology (CIT) is envisaged to undertake these tasks as a specialized institution, in cooperation with other agencies and ministries. However, for the purpose of formulating policy and frameworks for accident prevention, preparedness and response, the CIT collaborates with the National Protection and Rescue Directorate.

- ***Policies aimed at reducing the risks posed by lead, mercury and cadmium and other harmful heavy metals, including through a review of relevant studies, such as, for example, the United Nations Environment Programme global assessment of mercury and its compounds***

The Croatian Institute for Toxicology is the national capacity responsible for overseeing these policies in coordination with other specialized institutions. In order to scale up national capabilities for sound management of harmful heavy metals, the Directorate for Sanitary Inspection of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has started to regularly attend international meetings regarding harmful heavy metals, (especially mercury) and fulfill the respective reporting obligations.

- ***Initiatives to reduce overdependence on the use of agricultural chemicals***

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Developing in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare are working on means by which to scale up implementation of existing legislation dealing with plant-protection products and biocides.