

The Chemicals in Products (CiP) Project

Background & work undertaken

March 2011

Kaj Madsen
UNEP/DTIE Chemicals

Informal Workshop on Stakeholders' Information Needs on Chemicals in Articles / Products (2009) (1)

Concluded *inter alia* that

- **current efforts** and capacities to provide information about chemicals in articles/products and alternatives are **not sufficient** for informed decision making to protect human health and the environment throughout the life-cycle of articles/products
- **international cooperation on this issue is essential** and urgent action is needed **to ensure global harmonization of information flow and access, avoid the creation of a patchwork** of information systems and maximize the benefits to all stakeholders

Informal Workshop on Stakeholders' Information Needs on Chemicals in Articles / Products (2009) (2)

Recommended *inter alia* that

- a **working group** be established by the ICCM at its second session that responds to the need for information on chemicals in articles/products in the supply chain and throughout the life-cycle **with a mandate to review existing information and develop a proposal for an information system or framework of systems and/or actions**

ICCM2 (1)

Decided to implement a project with the overall objective of promoting the implementation of paragraph 15 (b) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

ICCM2 (2)

Agreed that the project will:

- (a) Collect and review existing information on information systems pertaining to chemicals in products including but not limited to regulations, standards and industry practices;
- (b) Assess that information in relation to the needs of all relevant stakeholders and identify gaps;
- (c) Develop specific recommendations for actions to promote implementation of the Strategic Approach with regard to such information, incorporating identified priorities and access and delivery mechanisms;

Recommended that proposals for cooperative actions should take into account the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and avoid any duplication of efforts under that system;

ICCM2 (3)

Invited UNEP to lead and facilitate the project in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, for instance through use of the Strategic Approach clearing-house mechanism and to constitute a steering group to advise it on the development and implementation of the project;

Requested each member (region) and participants (NGOs and IGO representatives) to nominate one expert each to the steering group,

Invited the UNEP to report on the project and its outcomes to the OEWG and to ICCM3 for consideration and possible decision on cooperative actions

Scoping phase of the CiP project

- survey among SAICM focal points on information systems, stakeholder needs, gaps and priorities for product sectors
- scoping meeting where priority sectors were identified for in-depth studies during the analytical phase

Scoping Meeting

The meeting recommended that priority be given to the following product sectors for in-depth analysis:

- Children's products including toys
- Electronic goods (in particular computers and mobile phones)
- Clothing and apparel (including shoes, leather and textiles and natural and synthetic fibres)
- Construction materials (including products causing indoor exposure and end-of-life reuse)
- Cosmetics and personal care
- Food containers and food packaging (including plastic materials)

Analytical phase of the CiP project

- a general study providing an overview of existing information systems and stakeholder needs and gaps analysis(Kogg& Thidell)
- case studies in 4 prioritized sectors providing in-depth analysis of situation in
 - toys,
 - electronics,
 - textiles and
 - building materials sector-expert
- Sector-expert consultation (Dec. 2010) discussed commonalities and specifics, as well as gaps and obstacles identified for the four sectors and possible ways to address these

General conclusions so far

- Regulation and voluntary initiatives were complementary and both play an important role.
- General awareness on the dangers of chemicals in products is growing
- There is a potential positive business impact that improved knowledge, oversight and actions on chemicals in products could bring.
- A harmonized industry-wide effort by sector is likely to be more efficient and effective than individual company actions.
- Exchange of information on chemicals in products in the supply chains is potentially the basis for other efforts to meet the SAICM objective 15(b).
- Tailoring that information to the needs of actors/stakeholders along the product lifecycle is a separate task.

International Workshop (1)

Workshop objectives:

- raise a wider awareness and understanding among SAICM stakeholders of the progress and findings of the project
- to review outcomes of the scoping and analytical phases
- discuss identified gaps and issues and possible options for addressing them
- identify and recommend elements (topics, points, questions etc.) to be addressed in the recommendations for cooperative actions, that are to be elaborated first as draft recommendations for OEWG (Aug 2011) and then further elaborated / finalized for consideration at ICCM3 in 2012

