



The ICCA Long-term Global Product Strategy

A Progress Report since the ICCM,
Dubai, 4-6 February 2006



INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL OF
CHEMICAL
ASSOCIATIONS

» Background

The ICCA Board of Directors at its meeting October 1st 2004 endorsed the integration of ongoing initiatives to improve the sound management of chemicals, such as the ICCA High Production Volume Chemicals Research Initiative, the Long - range Research Initiative, Responsible Care® program and the ICCA global strategy for the safe production, use and disposal of chemicals and products made from chemicals.

In Dubai, the ICCA communicated to the public its enhanced focus on efforts to further promote the chemicals industry's proactive approach by the launch of its:

- » Global Product Strategy and
- » Responsible Care Global Charter.

Both initiatives are complementary in nature.

The strategy is designed to improve the global industries product stewardship performance by recommending measures to be taken by the International Council of Chemical Association (ICCA) and their members along the chemicals value chain, while allowing for considerable flexibility in recognition of the differing cultural and national regulatory arrangements.

The strategy recommends a broad range of actions including; voluntary industry actions, cooperative efforts with industry groups and companies that are customers and suppliers to the chemical industry, a potential role for partnerships with Intergovernmental Organisations and other stakeholders, e.g. Non-Governmental Organisations, a common global position on principles of regulation for the sound management of chemicals, and communications programs.

The long-term goal of the strategy is to ensure that the value and benefits of chemistry are provided to society while protecting safety health and the environment.

» Strategy Components

The main components of the strategy include:

- » global product stewardship guidelines to share and widely communicate best practices within the chemical industry and with customer industries;
- » a management system approach for implementation product stewardship to continuously improve performance;
- » a systematic, tiered process for completing risk characterisation and establishing risk management measures for chemicals in commerce until the year 2018;
- » a special focus on working directly with downstream users across the product chain to enhance product stewardship;
- » improve transparency of chemicals management, including the identification of ways to make product stewardship information publicly available;
- » a closer cooperation with governments and other stakeholder in a partnership approach, including an invitation of Inter-Governmental Organisations to enhance their partnerships with the chemical industry and promote product stewardship globally.

» Status of Implementation

The implementation of the strategy at a global level requires a more structured and far wider process of engagement within the chemical industry and with customers and other stakeholders than ever before.

Governance

The ICCA Board of Directors has endorsed the governance structure and the organisational framework which is the basis for an effective and efficient implementation of the elements and concrete measures of the strategy.

The overall responsibility for the successful implementation of the strategy is with the ICCA Global Product Strategy Steering Group consisting of CEO or equivalent level representatives from companies or federations.

In support of the governance structure and to ensure that new



working groups, such as an implementation team, a value chain group and an ICCA communication group can start working, federations and companies have provided additional resources.

Cooperation with IGO's

The global chemical industry has been working closely with UNEP, UNITAR, the OECD and other IGO's and NGO's in the past, particularly in developing SAICM and its own new initiatives. ICCA is now further developing their cooperation to ensure that the implementation of its Global Product Strategy contributes efficiently to SAICM implementation and the global improvement of chemical safety.

In this respect the main focus for ICCA is capacity building.

UNEP:

ICCA has nominated a SAICM Focal Point as contact to and coordinator with UNEP Chemicals as SAICM secretariat. ICCA is a member of the Executive Board of the UNEP Quick Start Programme on capacity building. The ICCA capacity building Task Force is currently developing project proposals for further cooperation with UNEP.

OECD:

ICCA is continuing its HPV-chemicals initiative jointly with OECD Existing Chemicals Program. Just after Dubai the OECD 22nd SIDS Initial Assessment Meeting was a success, bringing the number of finalised substances up to 414.

ICCA member federations are providing financial support to ensure continuation with the OECD New Chemicals Program and in kind support for further development of the Global Data Portal.

Data gathering and risk characterisation

The ICCA member federations and their companies made additional commitments in conjunction with the global product strategy:

- » under the US-Expanded HPV program, which is supposed to run until 2010, companies will develop Hazard Data and minimal exposure data for all chemicals with a 2002 production volume of >1,000,000 lbs;
- » under the Japanese Challenge Program, which is set up as a partnership between industry and government, companies will provide Hazard Data and available



exposure information on HPV chemicals which are not being addressed by other international/regional programs;

- » guidelines for Priorisation of chemicals in commerce and for risk characterisation are under development and will be shared with the OECD.

Global Product Stewardship Guideline

Based on Product Stewardship Codes already in existence within ICCA member federations and their member companies the ICCA Global Product Strategy core team is developing a draft Global Product Stewardship Guideline for chemical companies and downstream users which have no product stewardship code in place.

Principles for and Elements of Chemical Regulatory Systems

The ICCA is in the process of developing principles and elements to foster greater consistency and transparency in chemical regulatory programs and to promote regulatory convergence. Such principles and elements will provide enough flexibility to accommodate existing and anticipated national or regional laws and regulations.

Regulatory systems, in order to benefit the further development of societies, must promote and efficiently deploy the chemical industry's innovation potential, provide legal certainty and international consistency.

These principles and elements will be shared with IGO's and governments to further the political debate on the SAICM implementation, and in particular to promote the process of the development of national action plans and a structured and integrated chemicals policy as part of the public policy.

Conclusions

These few examples might demonstrate the global chemical industry's activities on the further development and implementation of the Global Product Strategy and Responsible Care® Global Charter as part its contribution to the SAICM implementation immediately after its commitment in Dubai.

ICCA is prepared to publicly report continuously on an annual basis on progress made in implementing its Global Product Strategy and the Responsible Care® Global Charter.

The International Council of Chemical Associations

ICCA is the council of leading trade associations representing chemical manufacturers worldwide. It meets regularly to allow executives from the member associations to discuss policy, exchange views and, where appropriate, run programmes that address important international issues affecting the industry.

ICCA Membership includes the national chemical associations of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the UK, the U.S. and Uruguay.



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