

# Developing Approaches to Chemicals Management - a UK View

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# DEVELOPING APPROACHES TO CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT - AIMS:

- *introduce Defra and CGMP Division;*
- *overview of recent and current developments in EU and international chemicals management, from UK's perspective;*
- *how endocrine disruption fits in with these initiatives.*

# Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (*Defra*)

**Aim: Sustainable development, weaving together economic, social and environmental concerns.**

**Defra therefore:**

- *brings all aspects of the environment together;*
- *is a focal point for all rural policy;*
- *has roles in both European Union and global policy making.*

# Defra Chemicals & GM Policy Division

*Divisional objective (chemicals):*

*Developing policy for the sustainable production and consumption of chemicals and for ensuring that the UK is complying with our international obligations.*

# EUROPEAN CHEMICALS LEGISLATION

## Existing Substances regulation (793/93 EEC)

**“Existing substance” - listed in European Inventory of Existing Commercial Chemical Substances (EINECS).**

**EINECS contains some 100,000 chemicals, on the market within European Community between 1 January 1971 and 18 September 1981.**

# EUROPEAN CHEMICALS LEGISLATION

## Existing Substances regulation (793/93 EEC)

Risk Assessments published on European Chemicals Bureau web site (<http://ecb.jrc.it/existing-chemicals>).

If unacceptable risks identified, a Risk Reduction Strategy then developed to control or eliminate them.

# EUROPEAN CHEMICALS LEGISLATION

## New Substances Directive (92/32/EEC)

First marketed after 18 September 1981, included on European List of New Chemical Substances (ELINCS).

Under this Directive, before a new substance can be placed on the market, manufacturers are required to provide:

## **New Substances Directive (92/32/EEC) – requirements:**

- **Information on manufacturers and identity of the substance;**
- **Physico-chemical properties, eco- and toxicology;**
- **Processes used in production and proposed use/s;**
- **Guidelines for classification, labelling and safety precautions;**
- **Draft risk assessment .**



# EUROPEAN CHEMICALS LEGISLATION

## Marketing and Use Directive (76/769/EEC)

Harmonises Community measures to control the marketing and use of dangerous substances.

Substances controlled by this route include PCBs, polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs), asbestos, cadmium and carcinogens.

# EUROPEAN CHEMICALS LEGISLATION

## Where do endocrine disrupters fit in?

Many chemicals considered EDCs have been subject to bans or other regulations for some time;

Of initial EC list of 553 substances, evidence for endocrine disruption (or potential) found for 118; all but 9 of these already restricted or addressed through existing Community legislation.

## Short-comings in Current European Chemicals System

- 30,000 chemicals on the EU market at volumes of 1 tonne or more;
- 141 chemicals prioritised for action since 1993;
- 65 completed evaluations;
- risk reduction measures required for 52
- current regime too slow and cumbersome.

# REACH



- Registration
- Evaluation
- Authorisation / Restriction
- **CH**emicals

# REACH

**Registration** - of basic information of substances produced in quantities greater than 1 tonne per year, to be submitted by industry;

**Evaluation** - of the registered information to determine hazards and risks, to prevent unnecessary testing;

**Authorisation** - requirements imposed on the use of high-concern substances;

Restrictions of **Chemicals** – provides safety net to manage risks not adequately addressed elsewhere.

## **REACH – UK OBJECTIVES:**

- **Create fast, efficient and workable process of testing, screening and assessing chemicals to provide information necessary to control substances of concern;**
- **Keep animal testing to a minimum necessary;**
- **Maintain and enhance competitiveness of the chemical industry.**

# Implementing REACH

- **First Reading Agreement by the end of 2005;**
- **Entry into force by end 2006;**
- **Phase in over 10 years;**
- **Establishment of European Chemicals Agency in Helsinki;**
- **Establishment of Competent Authority in each Member State.**

# REACH and Endocrine Disrupters

**Subject to authorisation under Article 54, on a case-by-case basis, where there is scientific evidence of probable serious effects to humans and the environment giving rise to equivalent level of concern to CMRs, PBTs and vPvBs.**



# EU ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH STRATEGY

SCALE initiative (Science, Children, Awareness, Legal Instruments, Evaluation) priorities:

- Childhood respiratory diseases;
- Neurodevelopmental disorders;
- Childhood cancer;
- Endocrine disrupting effects.

# Children's Environment & Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE)

Four regional priority goals, of which goal 4 is:

- *Reduction in the risk of disease and disability arising from exposure to hazardous chemicals, physical agents and biological agents during pregnancy, childhood and adolescence.*

# Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Chemicals include....  
PCBs, DDT, aldrin,  
endrin, dieldrin, chlordane,  
heptachlor, mirex,  
hexachlorobenzene,  
toxaphene,  
dioxins & furans.



# Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure

Chemicals covered....

- (a) Banned or severely restricted chemicals; and
- (b) Severely hazardous pesticide formulations



# Approach to Strategic International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

- High Level Declaration
- Overarching Policy Strategy
- Global Plan of Action



## **UK Domestic Policy on Chemicals :**

- **UK Chemicals Strategy published in December 1999;**
- **UK Chemicals Stakeholder Forum (CSF) established in 2000;**
- **Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances (ACHS) set up.**

## Conclusions - 1

- Major activities underway in UK, Europe and globally to manage chemicals so as to protect human health and the Environment;
- Endocrine disruption remains an important issue in these activities;
- Some efforts specifically address EDCs;

## Conclusions - 2

- Others provide framework for integration into more general approaches;
- Latter increasingly the norm?
- Endocrine disruption as one facet of a spectrum of chemical-biological interactions?



**FINALLY -**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**

