

# Canada's Approach To Chemicals Management: A Focus on Health and Environment

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## A Look at Canada...



## Overview of Presentation

- **Canada's Health and Environment approach to chemical management**
- ***Canadian Environmental Protection Act***
  - **Existing Substances and Categorization**
- **Chemicals Management Plan (CMP)**
- **International Opportunities**

## Canada's Approach to Chemical Management Why a focus on Health and Environment?

- There is increasing recognition of the critical links between human health and the physical environment (air, water, soil, food and buildings).
- The health and environment approach seeks to attain the highest level of environmental quality as a means to enhancing the health and well-being of Canadians, preserving our natural environment and advancing our long-term competitiveness.
- The goal is to reduce the negative impacts of environmental risk and improve health outcomes by working with key partners. Health, along with the environment and the economy, is at the core of sustainable development.

## Canada's System for advancing Health and Environment

- In Canada, every order of government play's a part in protecting against risks from chemical substances.
- At the federal level, the health and environment is protected through numerous laws that govern chemical substances including those in food, drugs, pesticides and products – at federal level, there are over 25 different laws covering environment and environmental health issues.

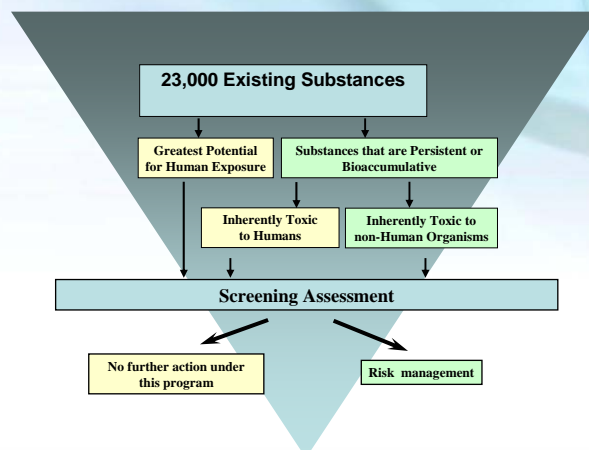
## Canadian Environmental Protection Act

- The **Canadian Environmental Protection Act** (CEPA), 1999 is one of Canada's most important laws governing the assessment and management of chemical substances.
- CEPA guiding principals:
  - Pollution Prevention
  - Precautionary Principle
  - Intergovernmental Cooperation
  - National Standards
  - Polluter Pays Principle
  - Science-based Decision-Making

## Canadian Environmental Protection Act

- CEPA is managed jointly by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment.
- CEPA requires every new chemical substance made in Canada or imported from other countries since 1994 to be assessed.
- CEPA also required a review and assessment of the legacy of substances introduced before 1994. These existing substances had not been examined to determine their risk to human health or the environment.
- **Categorization** was a systematic examination of information on certain characteristics (persistence, bioaccumulation, toxicity, potential for exposure to humans) of approximately 23,000 of the substances that were in use in Canada.

## The Categorization Process



## Results of Categorization

- Government of Canada scientists, in co-operation with industry and health and environmental groups, completed the categorization in September 2006.
- 4300 existing substances were identified as requiring further work/action:
  - 4000 met the categorization criteria;
  - 300 warrant further attention from a human health perspective.
- The completion of the categorization process provided an opportunity for a new approach to chemical management.

## Chemicals Management Plan...

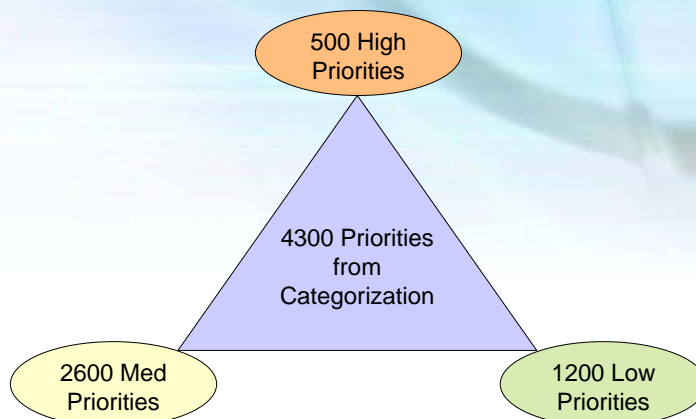
- December 2006, the Government of Canada announced the creation of a new **Chemicals Management Plan**.
- The plan responds to the Categorization exercise and takes immediate action to regulate the chemicals that are harmful to human health or the environment.
- The goal of the plan is to accelerate the regulatory process to ensure the top priority risks are addressed over the next three years, and to address the legacy of not yet assessed substances by 2020.

## Chemicals Management Plan...

### Canada's Chemicals Management Plan includes:

- Regulation and Enforcement;
- Challenge to industry
- Restrictions on re-introduction and new uses (SNACs);
- Rapid screening of lower risk chemical substances;
- Monitoring & Surveillance and Research;
- Integrating Government's Chemical Activities
  - mandatory ingredient labelling of cosmetics;
  - regulations to address environmental risks posed by pharmaceuticals and personal care products;
  - enhanced management of environmental contaminants in food; and
- Good stewardship of chemical substances

## From 23,000 to 4300 Substances



## Chemicals Management Plan - components

- **Regulation and Enforcement**
  - prohibition of substances confirmed harmful
  - establishment of the Virtual Elimination List
- **Challenge to Industry**
  - utilization of existing legal tools and the regulatory process to challenge industry to provide new information about how it is managing 200 chemical substances that are potentially harmful to human health or the environment
- **Restrictions on Re-introduction and New Uses**
  - **Significant New Activity** controls will set limits and restrictions on new or additional uses of chemicals.



## Chemicals Management Plan - components cont.

- **Rapid Screening of low hazard, low risk substances**
  - accelerated screening approach will apply a worst-case scenario to determine whether further assessment is necessary on 1200 substances meeting categorization but were unlikely to pose a risk.
- **Integrating Canada's Chemical Activities**
  - greater integration across current federal chemicals regimes: pesticides, cosmetics, foods and environmental risks posed by pharmaceuticals and personal care products.





## Chemicals Management Plan – components cont.

- **Health Monitoring, Surveillance and Research**
  - implementation of a national health and environment monitoring and surveillance program
  - enhanced regulatory science to inform risk assessments and regulatory interventions
- **Good Stewardship of Chemical Substances**
  - negotiation and implementation of performance agreements recognizing industry leadership
  - effective risk communication and information dissemination

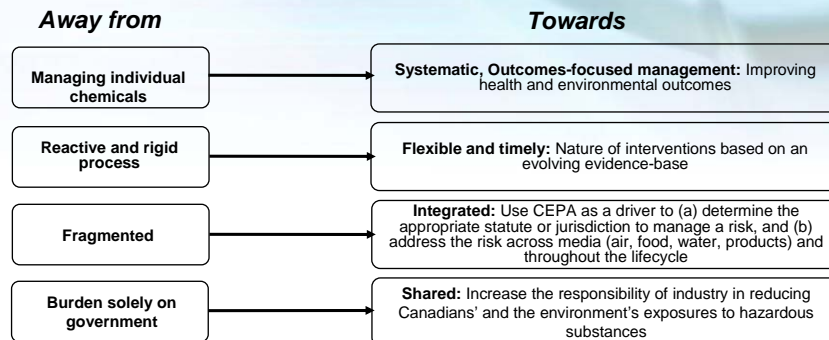
## International Opportunities

- Collaboration on National Chemical Management Activities:
  - Potential to work cooperatively in addressing chemicals of mutual concern - approximately 600 of the 4300 substances identified in Categorization have also been identified under other international programs
  - Collaboration in research to identify emerging issues and trends
  - Identification of international best practices
- Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
  - Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC) project



## Benefits of New Approach

- New information will promote an evolution in how chemicals are managed
- With domestic and international programs generating much more information on chemical safety, there can be a shift



## Thank You!

For further background information,  
visit Canada's Chemical Substances portal:

<http://www.chemicalsubstances.gc.ca>