Chemicals Control
An integrated approach
Swedish experiences from DC and CET countries

Thematic Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management
Geneva
30 March - 2 April 2004

Bengt Bucht
Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate
Chemicals risk management
Components

1. Getting knowledge of hazardous properties of chemicals
2. Disseminating knowledge on chemicals
3. Choice of chemicals
4. Assessing risks and taking measures for risk reduction

Steering by national legislation/international agreements

Chemicals in chemical products & in articles
Risk management of chemicals
a horizontal and international issue

• Health and Environment and Safety.
• Protection of
  • Consumers and Workers
  • Environment/ecosystems
  • Property

International aspects important
• International trade in goods = “trade in risks”
• Transboundary pollution
• International agreements

All aspects to be taken note of
Several ministries concerned
Placing on the market
- Data finding (GHS, POPs)
- Hazard assessment (GHS, POPs)
- Classification, labelling,
  SDS (GHS, ILO)
  (POPs, PIC, Basel)
- Restrictions (POPs)
  Substitution

Handling
Use, transport, storage etc.
- Data finding (GHS, POPs, ILO)
- Risk assessment (POPs, ILO)
- Restrictions/Substitution
  (POPs, ILO)
- Organise safe handling
  incl. waste (POPs, Basel, ILO)

Legislation on:
- Chemicals
- (Food)
- (Drugs)
Focus on placing on the market

Legislation on:
- Environment
- Work environment
- Large accidents
- Transport
Focus on handling
Efficient use of resources for chemicals risk management is needed

In CET's and DC's often

• Split and fragmentary legislation
• Many ministries and agencies involved - split responsibilities
• Unclear responsibilities
• Bad co-ordination & co-operation
• Overlapping tasks - double work
• Conflicts
• Inefficient use of available resources

Need for

• A coherent legislation
• Concentration of responsibilities/resources and a streamlined institutional set up - new institutions may be needed
• Integration of implementation of international agreements with other chemicals risk management
Integration is essential for cost-efficiency

- **Legislation**: Implementation of international conventions to be integrated with traditional legislation on chemicals risk management
- **Organisation**: Integration of institutions for implementation and enforcement of legislation incl. of conventions
  - Coherency - Co-ordination
  - Consistency - Continuity
  - Cost efficiency
Develop an integrated legislative and institutional national infrastructure

1. Basic chemicals legislation (IA:s integrated) regulating;
   - placing on the market of chemicals with regard to H/E/S
   - responsibilities of suppliers/vendors

2. Basic legislation on environment, working environment etc. (IA:s integrated) regulating;
   - use/other handling of chemicals
   - responsibilities of users/handlers

3. Institutions for managing 1. and 2.
   - clear and separate responsibilities
   - co-operation and co-ordination
Institutions for chemicals control
Main responsibility – co-operating institutions
An example

Government

- Ministry of Env.
  - Env. Prot. Agency
    - Centr. Chem. Bureau
    - Env. Inspectorate
- Ministry of Health
- Ministries of Ind. and Trade
- Ministry of Agricult.
- Ministry of Labour

Institutions in charge of basic chemicals legislation
Trade and Industry mainly responsible

• Trade & industry and consumers should have the main responsibility for a safe marketing and use of chemicals
• Government/agencies steer and supervise

\[\text{ Necessary to recognise the separate roles and to establish a dialogue between ministries/agencies and enterprises/associations } \]

! Rethinking may be necessary in DC and in CET countries!
Chemicals Control
- Shared responsibilities/Co-operation
- "Decentralised risk control" in the flow chain.

Governments
steering
guiding
monitoring
Without taking over
responsibility!

Wholesalers
Retailers

Producers
importers
-chemicals
-goods

Education
Training
R&D

Recycling
Waste

Users:
Enterprises
Consumers

Consultants

Financial
institutions

NGOs

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Consumers

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2004-03-25