



INTERNATIONAL  
COUNCIL OF  
CHEMICAL  
ASSOCIATIONS

# GLOBAL PRODUCT STRATEGY

"Product Stewardship is the industry's management of the health, safety and environmental performance of chemical products throughout their entire life cycle, as specified by the industry's Responsible Care® program and the Global Product Strategy (GPS). Product stewardship is a shared responsibility requiring close cooperation with suppliers and downstream users. The GPS also creates new avenues for partnership and cooperation reflecting ICCA's ongoing commitment to the SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management) ."

## BACKGROUND

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, countries adopted the goal that – by the year 2020 – chemicals will be used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health. The United Nations Environment Programme developed the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) to meet this goal. SAICM was adopted by governments at the U.N. International Conference on Chemical Management in Dubai in February 2006. At this conference the ICCA affirmed the chemical industry's proactive approach to product stewardship by launching the Global Product Strategy (GPS), and the Responsible Care® Global Charter (RCGC). Both initiatives are complementary in nature.

These actions reflect the industry's long-standing commitment to product stewardship and are built upon several ongoing voluntary initiatives including:

- The Responsible Care program
- ICCA's High Production Volume (HPV) Chemicals program
- Long-Range Research Initiative (LRI)
- The Global Chemicals Management Policy (GCMP), and numerous other efforts to promote the safe production, use and disposal of chemicals and products made from chemicals

The GPS will provide new momentum for unprecedented improvement in the industry's product stewardship performance by defining measures and actions for ICCA and membership associations and their member companies, while allowing for considerable flexibility in recognition of the differing cultures and national regulatory arrangements. Complementarily the RCGC focuses on industry challenges including: sound management of chemical products along the entire chemical product value chain, increasing industry transparency in reporting health, safety and environmental performance, and ensuring global harmonization of chemicals management.

Together, the GPS and RCGC signify ICCA's ongoing contribution to SAICM.

The goal of ICCA's Global Product Strategy is to ensure that society will continue to enjoy the value and benefits of chemical products, while our industry and our partners continuously improve efforts to protect public safety, health and the environment.

## Strategic Elements

The strategic elements of the Global Product Strategy include:

1. Develop global guidelines for Product Stewardship
2. Develop a management system approach
3. Define a tiered process for completing risk characterizations and risk management recommendations for chemicals in commerce
4. Improve product stewardship cooperation with industry groups and companies and address product challenges throughout the chemicals value chain
5. Develop partnerships with inter-governmental organizations and other interested stakeholders
6. Make relevant product stewardship information available to the public
7. Participate in scientific inquiry to address new and emerging health and environmental concerns
8. Develop a process to communicate internally and externally
9. Develop global advocacy principles

## Implementation

The implementation of the Global Product Strategy requires a new, more structured and far wider process of chemical products management within the chemical industry and with customers and other stakeholders. ICCA has put into place this new program for advancing, measuring progress and communicating product stewardship performance with our internal and external stakeholders of member companies through the network of chemical associations.

Exploration of potential partnerships with intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders will enhance product stewardship performance globally.

Partners already include:

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

ICCA is committed to develop partnerships with other stakeholders sharing the same overall objectives and involved in implementing SAICM.

## Future Development

Based on product stewardship codes already in existence under Responsible Care® within ICCA member associations and their member companies, ICCA developed comprehensive product stewardship guidelines for the industry and downstream users to guide coordinated implementation of

product stewardship worldwide. These guidelines can be found at (<http://www.icca-chem.org/pdf/guidelines.pdf>). ICCA also will develop the measurement process necessary to track and demonstrate progress. The guidelines provide practical help particularly to those with less product stewardship expertise or fewer resources at their disposal.

## Data Gathering and Risk Characterization

The ICCA member federations and their companies are committed to data gathering and risk characterization.

- In 1998, the ICCA established a goal to deliver to the OECD completed Information data sets (named SIDS) for 1000 global HPV (High Production Volume) chemicals. Presently, there are about 600 ICCA-submitted substances accepted in the HPV program;
- Under the U.S. Extended HPV program, which is scheduled to run until 2010, companies will provide use and exposure information on all U.S. HPV chemicals, as well as screening-level hazard information;
- 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 addressed by other international or regional programs;
- Under the European Union's new chemical regulation for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals, REACH, companies are required to provide hazard data, use and exposure information, conduct risk assessments and take risk mitigation measures for chemicals in commerce or imported into the European Union. Preregistration will begin 1st June 2008.
- Under GPS, companies will characterize the risks of their chemicals in commerce and ICCA developed guidelines to assist them in prioritizing and characterizing the risks of those chemicals.

## Responsible Care Global Charter

The Responsible Care Global Charter covers more than chemical production and use as it extends to other parts of the chemical value chain such as transport, storage, use and eventually disposal. Global Product Strategy is strongly interlinked to the Global Charter. To ensure effective product stewardship, close co-operation is required from everyone involved in a product's life cycle. Chemical companies are working with their suppliers, customers, distributors and user groups to develop effective, measurable practices throughout the value chain.



Through the sharing of information and a rigorous system of checklists, performance indicators and verification procedures, Responsible Care enables the industry to demonstrate how its health, safety and environmental performance has improved over the years, and to develop strategies for further improvement.

Responsible Care requires companies to be open and transparent with their stakeholders – from employees to local communities to environmental lobby groups, from local authorities and government to the media, and of course the general public.

## Conclusion

The global chemical industry's development and implementation of the Global Product Strategy and the Responsible Care® Global Charter is a measure of its commitment to product stewardship and an important part of its contribution to the SAICM. It is fully consistent with the chemical industry's tradition of leadership in chemicals management worldwide.

To ensure accountability and transparency, ICCA will provide public reports on the progress made in implementing these important initiatives.

# 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, implement programs 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 Republic of Korea, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the UK, the U.S. and Uruguay.

## Contacts

Visit ICCA online at: [www.icca-chem.org](http://www.icca-chem.org)

For additional information, contact:

### ICCA Extended Secretariat

Garrity Baker ([garrity\\_baker@americanchemistry.com](mailto:garrity_baker@americanchemistry.com))

American Chemistry Council (ACC)

T 703.741.5925

F 703.741.6070

Rachelina Baio ([rba@cefic.be](mailto:rba@cefic.be))

European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic)

T 32 2 676 74 15

F 32 2 676 73 10

Birgit Engelhardt ([engelhardt@vci.de](mailto:engelhardt@vci.de))

Verband der Chemischen Industrie e.V. (VCI)

T 49 69 2556-1425

F 49 69 2556-1471

Sachiko Kohno ([skohno@jcia-net.or.jp](mailto:skohno@jcia-net.or.jp))

Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA)

T 81 33 297 2554

F 81 33 297 2610

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