

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

DATE CREATED

6 February 2006



EMB personnel test for lead in paint samples using X-ray fluorescence (XRF) on 5 February 2016. [Nippon Paint]

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a policy framework that recognizes the valuable contribution brought about by chemicals to society and the need for their sound management by year 2020 so as to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment. The “2020 goal” was adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in year 2002 as part of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 4 to 6 February 2006, ministers, heads of delegation, and representatives of the private sector and civil society adopted the SAICM. The SAICM includes environmental, economic, social, health and labor aspects of chemical safety and agricultural and industrial chemicals at all stages of their life cycle, including in-products, except those regulated by domestic food or pharmaceutical authorities. It is related to the Montreal Protocol, the Basel-Rotterdam-Stockholm Conventions and the International Labor Organization Convention No. 170 on the safety in the use of chemicals at work. It is a voluntary global initiative.

COMMITMENTS

The 2015 meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), endorsed the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals. This identifies 11 basic elements that have been recognized as critical to the attainment of sound chemicals and waste management. They are:

- Legal frameworks that address the life cycle of chemicals and waste;
- Relevant enforcement and compliance mechanisms;
- Implementation of chemicals and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements, as well as health, labor and other relevant conventions and voluntary mechanisms;
- Strong institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms among relevant stakeholders;
- Collection and systems for the transparent sharing of relevant data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life cycle approach, such as the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;
- Industry participation and defined responsibility across the life cycle, including cost recovery policies and systems as well as the incorporation of sound chemicals management into corporate policies and practices;
- Inclusion of the sound management of chemicals and waste in national health, labour, social, environment and economic budgeting processes and development plans;

- Chemicals risk assessment and risk reduction through the use of best practices;
- Strengthened capacity to deal with chemicals accidents, including institutional strengthening for poison centers;
- Monitoring and assessing the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment and;
- Development and promotion of environmentally sound and safer alternatives.

Taking these elements into account, six core activity areas identified for implementing the objectives set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy towards the achievement of the overall 2020 goal are

- (a) Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement;
- (b) Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation;
- (c) Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour, and social and economic development planning, processes and budgets;
- (d) Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies;
- (e) Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society; and
- (f) Assess progress towards the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation and prioritizing actions for achievement by 2020.

LATEST POLICY ISSUANCES

EMB MC 2017-010 - Guidelines in the Implementation of Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Classification and Labelling Requirements for High Volume Chemicals (HVCs)

EMB MC 2017-009 - Clarifications on Permitting Regulations for Small Quantity Importation (SQI), Pre-Manufacture Pre-Importation Notification (PMPIN),

UPDATES AND RELATED PROJECTS

1. *Lead* - Lead in architectural, decorative and household paint and in products for children, was phased out on 1 January 2017. The Philippines will phase out leaded paint used for industrial purposes by 1 January 2020. The Technical Committee 25 (TC-25) is currently updating the Philippine Standards on paint and varnishes such as paint properties, paint application and film formation, optical properties, mechanical properties, durability and chemical requirements. TC-25 incorporated the 90 parts per million (ppm) limit stipulated in DAO 2013-24 for paints and varnishes. The committee, which meets once a month, is composed of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-Bureau of Philippine Standards, Philippine Association of Paint Manufacturers, DOST Industrial Technology Development Institute, DENR-EMB, Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers and the academe. In 2016, the NGO EcoWaste found that some give-away items from a local fast food chain contained high levels of lead. The products were immediately recalled by the firm. The Department of Education issued Department Order 4 Series of 2017 for the mandatory use of lead-safe paints in schools. The Philippine Association of Paint Manufacturers conducts monitoring, inspection and sampling of paint products.

The project Reducing Environmental and Health Risks to Vulnerable Communities from Lead Contamination from Lead Paint and Recycling of Used Lead Acid Batteries (ULAB) Project in the Philippines was conducted from October 2015 to December 2017. The project developed a national supply chain report, a National Inventory/Registry of Potential Lead-Contaminated Sites, and a National Action Plan to address unsafe ULAB recycling practices.

2. *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS)* - The DENR-EMB released Memorandum Circular 2017-010 on the Guidelines in the Implementation of GHS Classification and Labelling Requirements for HVCs, which was published in January 2018. Training and orientation seminars for regulators and industry representatives on GHS for the chemical industry were held in Visayas in April 2016 and in Mindanao in June 2016. To harmonize building blocks among government agencies implementing GHS, meetings with industry groups are being conducted.

3. *Waste Management* - The permitting system of the DENR-EMB was upgraded to monitor waste service providers and transporters.
4. *Mercury* - In 2017, the DENR-EMB Online Permitting and Monitoring System (OPMS) was established for the Chemical Control Order (CCO) for Mercury and Mercury Compounds and other regulated chemicals under RA 6969. This provides easier access to data, and exchange thereof between the EMB regional offices and the EMB central office.

For further updates on related matters, please see the sections on the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.

NEXT STEPS

1. *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS) implementation* - The development of guidelines for Chemicals under the International Air Transport Association and the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code list of dangerous goods (chemicals) is ongoing.
2. *Institutionalization and Integration of a Chemical Management Program across all agencies regulating chemicals* - There are six (6) agencies regulating chemicals in the Philippines and they implement their own programs and policies. In some agencies, chemical management is not part of their regular programs but is just part of their activities. Other agencies, such as the Department of Labor do not have chemical management policies but have activities that involve the management of chemicals in firms that the agency regulates. Another issue is the implementation of the GHS in High Volume Chemical (HVCs) for industrial chemicals regulated by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Philippine National Police (PNP); these are not regulated by the DENR-EMB.
3. *Computerization of all permitting systems for chemicals* - This is to address the lack of readily available data by linking different chemical regulators. It will supplement the current DENR-EMB's online permitting and monitoring system (OPMS) for new chemicals (Pre-Manufacture and Pre-Importation Notification) and regulated (PCL Compliance Certificate) chemicals and the Small Quantity Importation (SQI) Clearance and Chemical Control Orders (CCOs) currently being processed by the DENR-EMB regional offices.
4. *Strengthen cooperation with other countries regarding border control in the import and export of restricted substances* - The archipelagic

nature of the Philippines makes it nearly impossible to patrol all possible entry points of restricted or banned substances. Hence, more focused-capacity building of DENR staff and Bureau of Customs port of entry examiners and inspectors, coordination and partnership efforts of the DENR-EMB on Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), Globally Harmonized System (GHS) and on the policies and guidelines on chemical management are needed.

5. *Increase involvement of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the chemical management programs of government agencies* - The DENR-EMB started to inspect SMEs alleged to be using toxic substances and found out that these were not compliant with environmental regulations.
6. *Creation of a regulatory mechanism on chemical management for the informal sector at the level of the local local government units (LGUs)* - Local ordinances anchored on national policies can be developed to reduce the risk of chemical exposure and contamination of the environment from the use of chemicals by enterprises.

FOCAL OFFICE

Chemical Management Section

DENR Environmental Management Bureau

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MEETINGS ATTENDED

- Conference at Chemical Watch–Asia Hub Summit Europe, 27–28 September 2018; Brussel, Belgium – Ms. Emmanuelita D. Mendoza (EMB)
- Seminar and Workshop on the Latest Trends in Chemical Substance Management in Asia – India and the Philippines, 22 February 2018; Tokyo, Japan – Ms. Emmanuelita D. Mendoza (EMB)
- Asia Pacific Regional Meeting in preparation for the Second Meeting of the Intersessional Process for Considering SAICM and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020, and the Third Meeting of Open–Ended Working Group (OEWG3), 23–25 January 2018; Bangkok, Thailand – Mr. Renato T. Cruz (EMB)
- ChemCon Asia 2017, 19–23 June 2017; Beijing, China – Ms. Emmanuelita D. Mendoza (EMB)

- 2016 U.S. Chemical Sector Security Summit, 19–21 July 2016; United States of America – Reg. Dir. Joel G. Salvador (EMB)
- Global Summit on Chemical Safety and Security (CHEMSS), 18–20 April 2016; Poland – Engr. Jean C. Borromeo (EMB)

SOURCES/RELEVANT LINKS

<http://www.saicm.org/><https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste>

