

CHEM Trust contribution to ECHA's on-line call for input on the task of establishing a database on articles containing SVHC in line with the requirement of the revised Waste Framework Directive.

Deadline October 9, 2018

Questions

1. Article-centric approach*

ECHA proposes an "article-centric approach" to implement the new notification obligations under the Waste Framework Directive. Do you find this as an appropriate way forward?

CHEM Trust finds that the article-centric approach seems the most feasible for this database. A substance-centric approach would require a very good article-centric search function. We note that many stakeholders would benefit if other lists on the ECHA website were also made article-centric or if there were possibilities to search by article for substances on the candidate list, annex 14 and annex 17.

2. Challenges*

What would be, in your view, the main challenges to implement the proposed scenario?

There is a main challenge in the amount of data to be handled. However, it should be possible to establish a good database when using experience from IT-systems that are already in place in different supply chains etc.

A main challenge, which should not be overlooked, is the number of articles on the EU market which are imported directly by the consumer through on-line shopping. These articles will also become part of the waste stream, and a solution to how to get information on these articles is necessary.

Duty holders (article suppliers)

3. The legal text requires any supplier of an article containing a Candidate List substance to notify ECHA. Are there needs and practical means to tailor the notification system for the different roles in supply chains? (see paragraph Who are the duty holders? under section 3 of the "[Draft scenario for a database on Candidate List substances in articles](#)")*

The aim of the database is to be able to trace the article all the way to the waste operator and thus, information about "point of sale" or "envisaged end use location" should be included in the mandatory information described under section 3.

4. Data submitter needs*

Do data submitters have specific needs, which the Agency would have to take into account when designing the database and its data submission interface?

Data holders would probably appreciate if the data could be exported from their existing data systems such as those which are in place to comply with REACH article 33.

We find it important that the database can be useful for all actors in the supply chain and not only for the end users. Moreover, the database should be adaptable for future additional legal requirements and it should be possible to handle any other legal provisions about substances in products.

5. User needs*

Do the expected users of the database have specific user needs, which the Agency would have to take into account when designing the database and its dissemination?

In line with the comment above, the database should be able to handle full material declarations.

Moreover, it is important that the information in the database exist in different formats, targeted at different user groups. There would probably be a need for article-categorisation tailored towards categories of articles and materials as they are named by waste-operators in addition to categories of articles used by e.g. tax authorities.

The substance-information should also be presented in more than one format, including formats tailored towards waste-operator's needs, which might be simple such as e.g. "contains halogenated substances in xx concentration". For consumers, it could be beneficial if articles were named with names that consumers use when shopping, and if substances were given common names supplemented with basic information on any well-known group, which the substance belongs to and information on why the substance is on the list (which hazards have been identified)

6. Information requirements*

Besides the substance name, which additional information should be submitted to support safe use and end-of-life stage of articles?

As mentioned, as the aim of the database is to be able to trace the article all the way to the waste operator, then information about "point of sale" or "envisaged end use location" and instructions for the consumer about how to handle waste should be included in the mandatory information described under section 3 in the technical supporting document.

Specific instructions on how to disassemble and separate complex objects and materials should also be included.

Any further comments?

7. Are there any further comments or feedback you would like to share with ECHA on the draft scenario?

CHEM Trust values that ECHA is taking a positive and constructive approach to this task.

It is a good idea to establish a group of experts to discuss material categories and other issues. We suggest establishing a testing environment and try out the database with a number of volunteers in one or more important supply chains. This could provide important inputs from all actors in the chosen supply chain as well as from the consumers and waste operators about the usefulness of the information provided. A possibility could be to start with the plastics sector to establish how materials should be grouped and what information is sought by the recipients of the information

CHEM Trust support the idea of developing a better understanding of relevant safe use statements, including the waste stage, as part of this project.

Building material - including paints and other components added to the building by the owners - is a major component of total waste. It would be beneficial if the database could be useful also for the building and construction sector.

The candidate list was not originally established to be a guiding list for the circular economy. CHEM Trust sees a need for further analysis as to which additional substances, such as the POP's, should be included in the database and thus also be included in the scope of the notification obligating.

Finally, articles that are already on the market, should also be phased in to the database.