



Emerging issue Information on Chemicals in Products

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Outline

- Background and short explanation of the emerging issue
- Understanding problem
- Case studies
- Benefits of improved information systems

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Proposed action

- **Establishing of a working group for information on chemicals in products to promote the fulfilment of the SAICM 2020 goal with a special emphasis 15 (b) of the overarching policy objective**

Objective

- **Main objective to promote the implementation of paragraph 15 (b)¹ of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach;**

To ensure that:

“information on chemicals throughout their life cycle including where appropriate, chemicals in products, is available, accessible, user friendly, adequate and appropriate to the needs of all stakeholders....”.

Priority area of work

- a) Identifying and prioritizing product groups
- b) Determining scientifically the hazardous chemicals of concern;
- c) Identifying the relevant stakeholders and their specific information needs

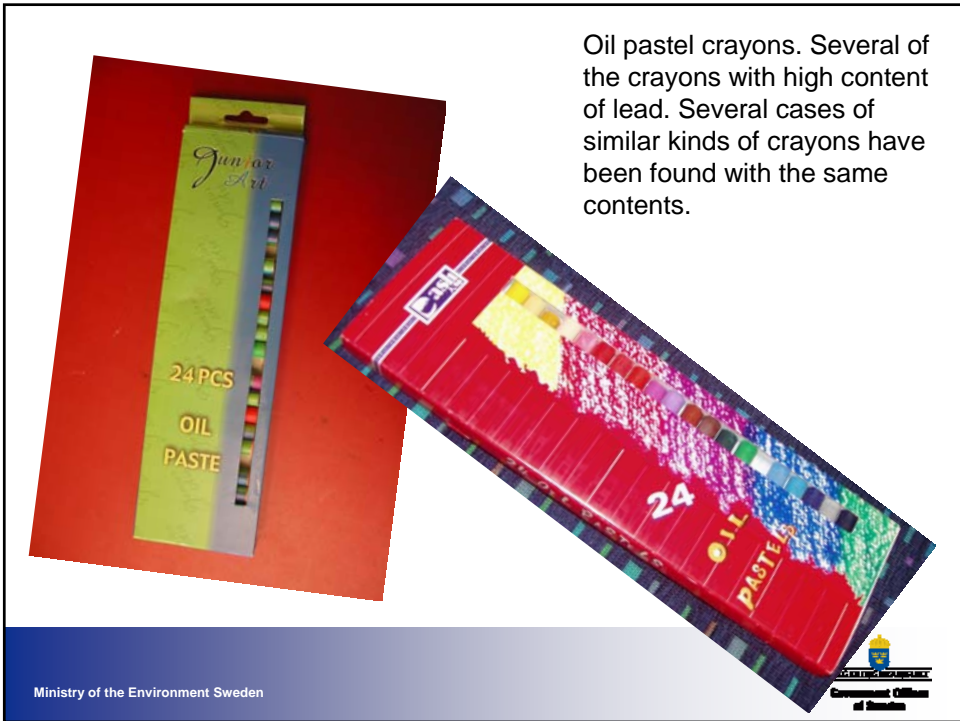
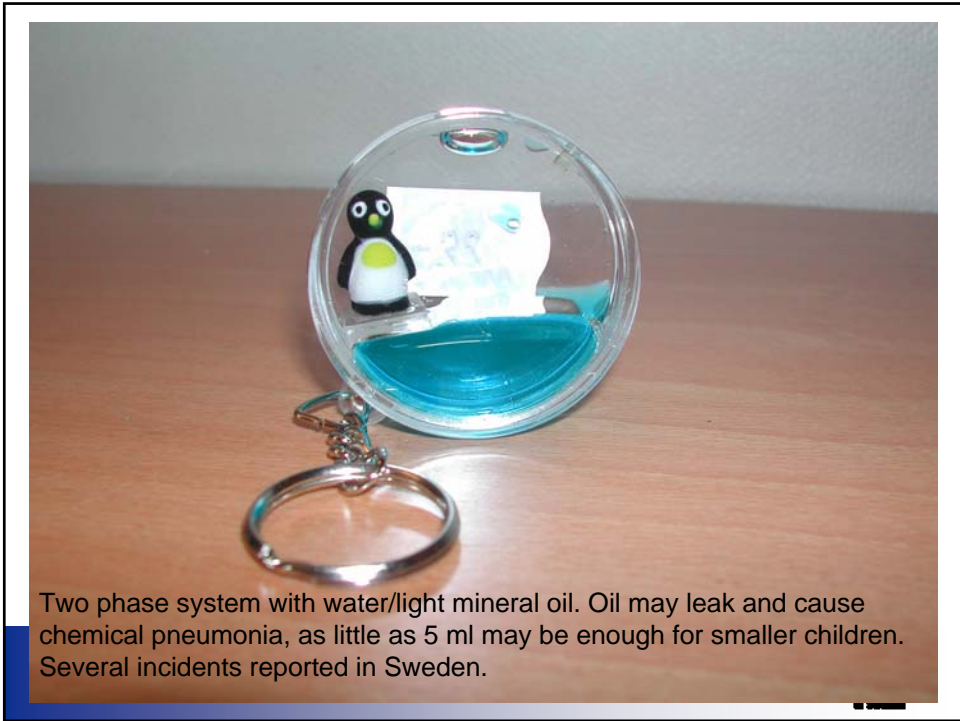
Priority areas of work

- d) Providing additional information on how Governments and stakeholders will gain access to the proposed information system(s) and how it (they) will operate;
- e) Analysing the costs and benefits to industry, Governments and others in providing and gaining access to the information system(s),
- f) Devising appropriate methods to make information on chemicals in products available to all stakeholders.

Understanding the problem

- Hazardous chemicals may be incorporated into products which often are traded globally
- Health and/or environmental exposure may occur during manufacturing, use and/or recycling or disposal
- The burden of exposure to toxics in products is not evenly distributed globally
- There is no widespread or systemic level of knowledge on how information of chemicals in products could be best consolidated, disseminated and made accessible.

Case studies



Lead in Toys

- **Issue**
 - Used everywhere – paint, jewelry, pastels, plastics
 - Neurotoxicant, particularly with young children
 - Release during use and disposal
- **Life Cycle Implications**
 - Mfg – occupational exposure
 - Use – children mouthing
 - Landfill/incineration – Pb in ash



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Two images are shown. On the left, a glowing green and yellow 'Light stick' is placed next to a red ruler for scale. On the right, the packaging for 'glow STICK STIR-STICKS' is shown, which contains 4 glowing sticks with 4 holders. The packaging is black with colorful text and images of the sticks. The text on the packaging includes 'glow STICK STIR-STICKS', '4 Glowing sticks with 4 holders', 'Easy to activate', 'Glow for hours', 'Safe & fun', 'Great for parties, birthdays, weddings, nightclubs, conferences, outdoor activities, and more!', and 'CONFORMS TO ASTM D 4818-11'. A price tag of '22.04.15' is visible on the packaging.

24 hr glowing "Light stick". Used as a decoration in drinks may contain up to 80 % DEHP together with reactive chemicals (eg. hydrogen peroxide) and crushed glass. Non-toxic alternatives to DEHP are available.

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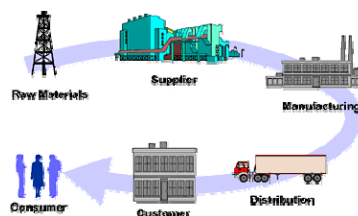


Electric and electronic equipment may contain hazardous substances and material such as heavy metals and brominated flame retardants.

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Life Cycle Exposures



- **Manufacturing exposures more easily controlled**
- **Users may have little information to inform their actions**
- **Disposal and recycling can lead to additional impacts on environment and human health**
- **Disproportionate effects in developing countries & economies in transition**

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Opportunities

- SAICM provides a good framework for co-operative actions on this issue
- Create approach that allows complex supply chain to have the information needed
- Closing the gap to reach the 2020 goal
- Informed decision making



Proposed outcome of a working group

Proposal for an information system or framework of systems to meet the information needs of different actors in the supply chain

Overall aim

- ❖ Closing the gap between current activities and activities needed to reaching relevant objectives (OPS 15)