

The Swedish Chemicals Agency
The International Secretariat



www.kemi.se

The Swedish Chemicals Agency – KemI

The Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI) is a central agency under the Swedish government which works for preventive chemicals control, making sure that companies producing or importing chemicals take responsibility for the safety of the products placed on the market.

KemI represents the Swedish government in co-operation in the EU to evaluate chemical substances that are hazardous to health and the environment. KemI takes part in the process of implementation of the REACH Regulation, and collaborates by engaging in dialogue with various industrial sectors to develop environmentally sound products.

Pesticides must be approved by KemI to be allowed onto the Swedish market. The EU member states co-operate in evaluating active ingredients in pesticides. Part of this work is carried out by KemI. KemI maintains a register containing data

on some 500 pesticides approved in Sweden, and about 1,500 pesticides whose use is no longer approved. The register can be consulted on the KemI website.

KemI conducts inspections at Swedish manufacturers and importers who sell chemical products and articles which may pose chemical risks. The inspectors also give guidance on chemicals legislation to local and regional authorities.

The Products Register at KemI contains information on more than 70,000 chemical products and biotechnical organisms. This information has been supplied by about 2,500 companies who are required to report. The database provides information on how chemical substances and products are used in Sweden and is an important tool for use in KemI's activities.

(More information on the Products Register can be found at www.kemi.se.)



The International Secretariat at KemI

International measures are of crucial importance to achieve a less toxic environment. Since 2006, international activities at KemI have been co-ordinated by the International Secretariat.

The main tasks of the International Secretariat are to develop and accomplish development co-operation activities for the sound management of chemicals and to participate in the development and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in the field of chemicals.

In 2005, KemI and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) signed an agreement for increased co-operation in the field of development co-operation. Several bilateral and regional co-operative development programmes have started based on that agreement. The overall aim of all the programmes is to strengthen the capacity of authorities and other organisations in partner countries, and to achieve sound management of chemicals in accordance with the UN Millennium Development Goals.

SAICM – Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

KemI is the national focal point for SAICM in Sweden and co-ordinates the work of other bodies.

In February 2006, in the presence of representatives of more than 140 countries, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

SAICM is a process created to fulfil the objective of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation that “by 2020 chemicals should be produced and used in ways that lead to the minimisation of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment”. KemI supports the Ministry of the Environment in preparing for forthcoming ICCM conferences at which further development of SAICM will be discussed. KemI supports programmes for SAICM implementation.



Chemical conventions and agreements

KemI is the designated national authority for the Rotterdam Convention and the national focal point for the Stockholm Convention.

The Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) makes it possible for countries to obtain information on the importing of hazardous chemicals in advance and to decide on either acceptance or rejection of imports. According to the EU regulation implementing the Convention, products exported from the European Union will also be accompanied by information on hazard.

The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human beings and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

KemI supports the Swedish Government, participates in the Conferences of the Parties for the two conventions, and participates in implementation of the conventions in Sweden and in the European Community. KemI will be reporting to the Stockholm Convention in co-operation with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

The Secretariat also co-ordinates work with the OECD, as well as participating in global co-operation on risks posed by metals.

For further information on KemI's work and links to SAICM and the Conventions, see www.kemi.se.

Development Co-operation

Chemicals are a part of everyone's daily life, essential to virtually every sector of the modern economy. World production, distribution and use of chemicals have increased sharply over the last few decades.

Keml supports the development of national structures for chemicals management, with a focus on chemicals placed on the market. This is done at the national, regional and global levels in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition.

Keml is engaged in co-operation and development in many fields, covering health and environmental aspects of industrial and consumer chemicals, as well as pesticides. Examples of areas covered are development of legislation, institutional capacity building, and specific areas like risk assessment, risk management, systems for distribution of risk information (classification and labelling, safety data sheets) and enforcement.



KemI offers support to authorities and other institutions at the national and regional level.

Examples of such activities are:

- Support in establishing national chemicals legislation
- Strengthening of institutional development and training of core staff
- Facilitation of educational programmes in, for example, toxicology and ecotoxicology through co-operation with relevant institutes
- Support in the implementation of SAICM and Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the field of chemicals.

At present (May 2007), KemI is carrying out regional co-operative activities in Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe and the SADC region in Africa. Bilateral co-operation has been or is being established in Vietnam, China, Russia, Ukraine, Serbia, Macedonia and Tanzania.



KemI collaborates with organisations such as UNDP, UNEP, FAO and IPCS in providing funding and expertise for workshops, development of guidance documents etc.

In its global work on chemicals management, KemI focuses on the implementation of the chemical conventions and SAICM. KemI supports awareness raising and capacity building in civil society, through co-operation with NGOs.

ITP – International Training Programme

The agreement between KemI and Sida includes a training programme – “Strategies for Chemicals Management”.

The purpose of the International Training Programme (ITP) “Strategies for Chemicals Management” is that participants should acquire the knowledge and skill required to enhance chemicals control in their countries. The programme is designed for relevant governmental officials, in order to assist their domestic administration in developing national strategies for chemicals management and sustainable development.

The ITP courses are in two parts: a first training session in Sweden and a second part in one of the participating countries. After the first part of the training, the participants will work on a project of change in their home countries, with guidance from KemI. The course is organised on a yearly basis.

Further information can be found at www.kemi.se



About the Swedish Chemicals Agency

- The Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI) is a central agency under the Swedish government.
- KemI works for preventive chemicals control, where companies producing or importing chemicals are responsible for ensuring the safety of products placed on the market.
- KemI represents Sweden in the EU and internationally and works to promote legislation, information, supervision and other measures that will contribute to the achievement of sound chemicals management.

Disclaimer:

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