



Progressing the Global Product Strategy

Improving chemicals management worldwide

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The Global Product Strategy (GPS) commits companies to promote the safe use of chemical products around the world and to enhance product stewardship throughout the value chain, possibly the biggest challenges within the chemical industry's overall commitment of Responsible Care.

The International Council of Chemical Associations' Chemical Policy and Health Leadership Group has focused its efforts on developing tools to help both chemical associations and companies – particularly small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) – with GPS implementation.

Responding to the challenges

In Europe, GPS implementation is largely driven by the obligations resulting from the REACH regulation. However, on the global scale the situation is different: here one of the biggest challenges to achieving GPS objectives is to raise awareness and build capacity in certain parts of the developing world to effectively manage chemicals. Gaps are most common in appropriate expertise, access to data and scientific information, resources, and infrastructure or a combination of these.

And resources are a key factor – especially for SMEs in emerging economies as well as in developed regions when implementing GPS and, more specifically, performing chemical risk assessments. Many companies have limited experience in risk assessment and related methodologies but associations and larger companies can provide vital support to help alleviate this problem.