Responsible Care: an outsider's view

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CEFIC Responsible Care conference, Manchester, October 2008
"Don't trust us, track us"
**Chemical Watch**

Briefing businesses on REACH and chemical risks

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**Nine companies set up OR industry association**

17–Oct–08

Group aims to establish OR standards and help common interpretation of guidelines

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**UK customs authorities to get REACH enforcement powers**

17–Oct–08

Imminent regulations will give customs powers to detain goods while they are investigated for breaches of REACH

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**Other News**

- 20 Oct: EU publishes summary risk assessment report for 2-nitrotoluene
- 20 Oct: DG SANCO assesses challenges to effective risk communication
- 20 Oct: WHO Environment and Health meeting debates role of science in policy making
- 17 Oct: Progress for fuel ethers REACH consortium
- 17 Oct: EU food safety authority consults on nanomaterials in foods
- 16 Oct: UK distributors' body calls for extension to REACH pre-registration period
- 16 Oct: UK issues guidance on REACH and...
Responsible Care is...

“the chemical industry's commitment to continual improvement in all aspects of HSE performance and to openness in communication about its activities and achievements” - CIA
'Time bomb' claim following blast

One resident near the scene of an explosion at a chemical plant claimed they were living on a "time bomb".

The blast happened on a pipe at the Terra Nitrogen (UK) Ltd site in Billingham.
“With experienced staff retiring, and constant changes of ownership, the chemical industry faces particular challenges to learn from accidents and retain the lessons” - Judith Hackett, head of UK HSC (ICB)
Is it working?

“REACH is a consequence of the industry's failure to come up with convincing product stewardship initiatives in the past, despite the fact that it has been a Responsible Care goal for years” - Jose-Maria Bach, chairman of ICCA Responsible Care leadership group, ENDS Report, January 2005
"Accurate reporting of performance is at the heart of Responsible Care" - CEFIC

"engage in open and honest communication" - CIA qualifying requirement

Members must "report on performance and progress towards declared goals" - CIA guiding principles for sustainable development

We will report HSE progress to stakeholders – CIA Responsible Care guiding principle
Chemical industry goes into reverse on reporting

With emissions data posted on the Environment Agency’s website and NGOs preoccupied with climate change, most chemical manufacturers in the UK no longer publish national environmental reports. Geraint Roberts asks whether this might be a mistake.

Want to know about the environmental performance of a particular chemical manufacturer in the UK? Then good luck, because the vast majority of them do not make it easy. When it comes to being forward about disclosing the details, most of the industry is going backwards.

Publicly reporting on progress towards environmental goals is a key part of the Chemical Industries Association’s Responsible Care programme, which aims to convince the public that the industry can be trusted to run its operations responsibly and it is a positive force that brings many benefits to society.
ENDS Report survey of CIA members

- 176 websites surveyed in February 2008

- 6 out of 10 did not have detailed EHS reporting for 2005/06 or more recent period on its own website or that of its parent company

- 6 out of 10 of those that do report only do so as part of parent company reports on global operations, with aggregated data for the whole group
1 in 6 did not even appear to have a statement on their website or that of its parent company about their environmental policies or goals

1 in 3 did not have easy-to-find information about Responsible Care on their website or that of their parent company
Product stewardship: why move beyond REACH?

"The marketplace moves faster than regulation. In terms of a long-term strategy [for business survival], simply complying with legislation is a very, very precarious place to be." Besides it means that the industry is always perceived as being defensive.”

Terry Yosie, former ACC vp of RC.

ENDS Report November 2005
Things to consider

- Should companies be more open about substances with significant environmental and health impacts and the alternatives?
- Should they update KPIs to cover product stewardship, carbon footprinting, social issues?
- Should CEFIC and national associations publicly encourage reporting and third party verification of RC management systems?
Any questions...

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