

# Chemical Inventories

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# Chemical Inventory

Defintion:

A listing of industrial chemicals, manufactured in, or imported by a country

For example, a list of all substances in an area, a country or a group of countries as EU

Primary use is to distinguish between new and existing chemicals

Has (most common) a legal basis, an act, a directive or a law

Is a database with information submitted by manufacturers, users or importers to the government authorities

# Chemical Inventories

- Korea >35 000 substances 1991
- US TSCA >75 000 substances, 1976
- Australia 39 000 substances, 1984
- Canada 22 600 substances  
1985-1990
- EU REACH 12 276 substances by Jan  
2014
- Sweden Products Register 1978  
2000 compaines 90 000 chemical products

IOMC/UNEP/UNITAR Chemical Inventories

<http://www.chem.unep.ch/irptc/Publications/toolbk/mod1.pdf>

# Distribution of substances in TSCA

- Organic chemicals 48%
- Polymers 27%
- UVCB (Undefined or Variable composition, Complex reaction products and Biological material) 21%
- Inorganic chemicals 4%

# Necessary conditions for an Inventory or a chemicals register

- Legal foundation
- Reliable financing for a long time
- Time and interest for stakeholders, input /co-operation
- Scope according to needs –
- Definitions that are coherent –
- Confidentiality? –

# When is information needed/use of inventory/register?

- Emergencies
- Direct control of single products
- Choice between different chemicals
- Target information and measures
- Prioritize between important problems related to chemicals
- Report to international conventions
- Regional and local needs for environmental purposes

# Needs decide the scope

- Substances preparations materials articles ?
- Import manufacture use emission ?
- Hazardous chemicals only? But if the chemical will be considered as hazardous in the future?
- Quantity limit ?
- Exclusions ? of e.g.
  - Chemicals in other legislation, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, cosmetics, food additives etc. , alloys, military used chemical, radioactive, coal etc
- Is the inventory to be updated? How often?
- Don't build your own databases for such knowledge that could be found elsewhere

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use free web sources and link

# Careful choice of definitions

- Utilize already running "inventories" like taxation of chemicals, statistics, customs
- Use existing classification systems  
Harmonise definitions
- Substance identity, purity, possible by-products?
  - Use definitions and guidelines of existing inventories
  - Use CAS-numbers
  - Seek and/or buy help
  - Put the burden of proof on industry

# Simple confidentiality rules

- Industry or authority-who decides?
- Time limit for confidentiality?
- User needs
  - Generic names - used commonly by people to name an entire category or class of products
  - Aggregated data is enough information? Intervals in concentrations of substances?

# Lessons learned

- Write down carefully why there shall be a register and for what it shall be used  
registers will always be questioned
- Mandatory to report, control with sanction possibilities
- Establish early contact and work in co-operation with stakeholders  
take opportunities to inform personally

# Useful conditions

- A step-wise build inventory -what comes first? commodities?, high volume chemicals?, CMRs ?, hazardous substances in certain kinds of preparations ?etc.
- An active and visible control, enforcement
- Make a publication of useful data to establish the inventory
- Focus on getting data into the register (the database design is important but not most important)