



HealthyCar.org Fact Sheet: Elements of a Comprehensive Chemicals Policy

Know what is contained in your products

Know the chemical components of your products.

Know the process chemicals required to make your products.

Know the life-cycle impacts of your products.

Signal vendors that complete chemical ingredient information will be required over time.

Insure that all chemical components are tested

Initially, comprehensively screen all chemicals/materials in products for health/safety and environmental concerns throughout the life cycle of that chemical/material. Use screening tools where direct testing data is not available (the EPA has a series of on-line tools)

Screen all chemical components and process chemicals against existing lists of chemicals of concern

Comprehensively test (or urge upstream suppliers to provide testing data) on key health and environmental endpoints

Evaluate all chemicals based on their inherent hazards, not based on a risk characterization.

Over time, only use chemicals that have been tested for their ability to harm health or the environment. Phase out chemicals that have not been tested.

Signal vendors that complete chemical testing will be required for chemical components of products over time.

Prescreen all chemicals before use for safety

Establish a baseline set of criteria that any chemical must meet in order to be used in company products

All new chemicals the company contemplates using should receive the highest screening, to prevent the integration of a problem chemical into the company's manufacturing system.

Commit to continuous improvement in the toxicity profile of all chemicals used

Establish goals to reduce the overall toxicity profile for the company. Those goals should be reviewed regularly and should continually improve the chemical profile of the company.

Develop metrics to capture cost savings and other benefits of the program.

Align employee incentives with this goal.

Prohibit

Chemicals with a high hazard profile. These may be chemicals that persist and bioaccumulate, chemicals that are known carcinogens, mutagens and reproductive toxicants, known neurotoxicants, ecologically harmful, etc.

This list should go beyond regulatory requirements.

The list should be developed by evaluating the inherent hazards of a chemical first, and then prioritizing based on a life cycle assessment of the threats posed by the chemical/material

The list of attributes that are prohibited should grow over time, in order to achieve a chemical profile for the company that includes primarily low hazard chemicals.

Label all products or provide easily accessible data on all products

Label and bar code or otherwise provide health/safety/environmental attributes of products for consumers/user in a way that is easy for the consumer to access.

Communicate information to the public, workers and downstream users

It is important to publicly communicate the goals and implementation steps of this program to employees, customers and the public (with opportunities for feedback at all levels).

Advocate for Comprehensive Chemicals Policy at the National Level

Individual chemicals policies by companies are an inefficient way to provide comprehensive testing information to all downstream users. Companies should support the reform of chemicals management laws so that adequate information on chemical impacts are provided to downstream users to choose the safest and most effective chemicals.

For more information and detailed vehicle reports, please visit HealthyCar.org.