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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES

The Standing Committee on Hazard Information and Packaging (SCHIP)

Issue

1 Report by the SCHIP Secretariat on the current and future work of SCHIP following its recent reconstitution.

Timing

2 Routine

Recommendation

3 For information only.

Background

4 In November 2000 ACTS agreed the reconstitution of SCHIP (ACTS/37/2000 refers). This reconstitution changed the subcommittee's membership (originally 14 business representatives, 3 worker representatives and 4 independent members) to better reflect the structure of HSC and ACTS (4 employers representatives, 4 employees representatives and 4 independent members). This meant that SCHIP:

a. could increase its credibility when used for formal consultation e.g. Directive changes; and

b. better reflect the views of workers and others e.g. SMEs, LA, DEFRA.

5 The Committee has met on 2 occasions (21 November 2001 and 23 May 2002) since its reconstitution. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 2002; this reflects the new biannual cycle of meetings.

Argument

6 HSE consider the reconsitution to have been particulary successful in drawing in a wider cross section of stakeholders and achieving a more balanced debate than previously.

7 To date SCHIP has considered policy and procedural issues including:

a. CHIP 3 matters:

i. HSE's plans to overcome the lack of transitional arrangements, including HSE's enforcement of the new Regulations (SCHIP/57/01). SCHIP supported the proposals;

ii. how Great Britain should approach the Dangerous Preparations Directive's requirement for collection of information on chemicals to meet medical demand (SCHIP/07/02). SCHIP agreed HSE's strategy for resolving the issue.

iii. HSE's arrangements for approving Alternative Names for certain constituents of preparations (SCHIP/08/02). SCHIP commented on the draft guidance and many of the comments have been incorporated. (The final version of the guidance will be placed on the website: www.hse.gov.uk/hthdir/noframes/chip/chip0.htm);

iv. HSE's proposals for a 6-month Post-Introduction Evaluation to look at concerns raised during consultation, and whether HSE's strategy for managing the implementation had worked.

b. how HSE negotiates classification and labelling directives, including consultation with SCHIP and ACTS. SCHIP endorsed the continuation of practice agreed some years ago and agreed the Secretariat should reflect on whether a new paper it needs to be updated;

c. delegating some of SCHIP's work to subgroups (SCHIP/51/02 and SCHIP/11/02). SCHIP agreed the setting up of 4 subgroups:

i. EC Chemical Strategy rapid response working group (to advise HSE on occupational health impacts of the New European Chemicals Strategy – see ACTS/48/2002);

ii. Import/Export working group (to advise HSE on negotiations for a new EC Regulation on import and export of chemicals outside the EC);

iii. Pesticides panel (to advise HSE on classification and labelling work for pesticides); and

iv. Classification and labelling panel (to advise HSE on classification and labelling work for industrial chemicals).

d. how SCHIP (and thus ACTS) could help in delivering HSE's outcomes (SCHIP/09/02 – see appendix 1 for a summary).

Future work

8 It is clear that a peak of activity associated with the introduction of CHIP 3 has now passed and as a result the need for substantial debates in formal SCHIP meetings may decrease. It is also possible that some issues can be dealt with electronically. Over the next few months SCHIP will continue discussions on the above topics and will:

a. maintain its role as the consultative mechanism for the continuing negotiations on the Dangerous Substances Directive (DSD), and with ACTS for a possible 29th ATP to the DSD (meaning a first amendment of CHIP 3); and

b. input into continuing negotiations on the New European Chemicals Strategy.

9 The Secretariat will formally update ACTS again in 18 months time.

Communication Plan

10 N/R

Evaluation Plan

11 N/R

Relevant Control Systems

12 N/R

Consultation

13 SCHIP members have been copied the paper for information.

Presentation

14 N/R

Costs and Benefits

15 None directly. Some indirectly because of better consultation.

Environmental implications

16 No.

European implications

17 Yes. SCHIP and its panels are part of the consultative mechanism for HSE's EC negotiations.

Devolution

18 None.

Other implications

19 None.

Action

20 None.

Contact

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Appendix 1

1. SCHIP could contribute to the following outcomes:
    - securing compliance cross sectorially – hazardous substances, asthma;
    - modernise and simplify the regulatory framework, including European and other international work;
    - work to provide information and advice to improve the knowledge of health and safety; and
    - revitilising:
        - occupational health review;
        - small firms;
        - best practice;
2. Some specific initiatives SCHIP could contribute too are:
    - identification and development of any new guidance material needed, especially for SMEs;
    - SCHIP members helping with CHIP3 information dissemination (if HSE provide presentational material) especially to smaller companies;
    - 'advertise' COSHH essentials – how can SCHIP best contribute?;
    - contribute to 'UK' SDS guidance – this could amalgamate current stakeholder guidance into a UK product, badged by SCHIP.
3. SCHIP could also help identify substances that HSE could take forward for harmonised C&L. HSE currently submits proposals for harmonised C&L proposals based on the following criteria: newly identified CMR or sensitisation properties; the reclassification is needed for proper dealing with the substances under COMAH. Our programme for 02/03 is:

- Colchicine (issue mutagenicity).
- Malachite Green (issue mutagenicity).
- P-Chlorophenyl isocyanate (issue acute toxicity, sensitisation).
- Cyanuric chloride (issue acute toxicity).
- Isoprene (issue carcinogenicity and mutagenicity).

Proposals to follow up UK ESR risk assessments:

- Styrene (under review).
- MCCPS (issues carcinogenicity and reproductive toxicity).
- SCCPs (issue carcinogenicity and reproductive toxicity).

HSE occasionally identify other issues to take forward, such the recently agreed change to the corrosivity criteria (28th ATP) and a forthcoming short review of recent fertility discussions in the CMR working group.