Chemicals in Products

An overview of systems for providing information regarding chemicals in products and of stakeholders' needs for such information

Beatrice Kogg & Åke Thidell,
Sector-expert Consultation for the Chemicals in Products Project
Geneva, December 9, 2010

Agenda

- Overview of CiP information systems
- Stakeholders' need for CiP information
- Gaps
- Reflections on closing gaps

the international institute for industrial environmental economics
Lund University, Sweden
iiiee

Overview of CiP information systems

Generic components of CiP information systems

- Template for/definition of information to be provided and presentation
- Method/criteria for evaluation/interpretation of data
- Defined method for generation/provision of information
  - Information from upstream tiers
  - Inquiries, literature
  - Laboratory testing
- Platform for information provision
  - Database
  - Product/packaging
  - Documentation

Generic components of CiP information systems

- Information ownership and access
  - Open, limited
- Routines for updating and verification of information
  - Testing procedures, sampling procedures, required proofs etc.
- Organisation & resources for support and training

Categorising CiP systems
actor – chain perspective

- Inter-chain information exchange
- Producer – consumer/customer information
- Producer to end-of-life actors
- External stakeholders to consumers/customers and the public
- “System like” initiatives
  - SIN-list, sector RSLs
  - Green procurement manuals

Inter-chain information exchange

- Primarily supply chain actors
- Well-established rules of information provision
- Proprietary information – access on permission
- Drivers: legal requirements
  - IMDS, IPC 1752
  - JAMP & BOMCheck

Producer – consumer/customer information

- Producers inform (concerned) customers
- Producers may request upstream information
- Both producer, user and third party evaluation of information
- Drivers: both legal and market
  - California's Proposition 65
  - Declarations, eco-labels

Producer to end-of-life actors

- Producer to user and EoL
- Required/set rules for information provision
- Information on the product
- Drivers: legal requirements
  - Heavy metals in batteries, mercury lamps, etc.

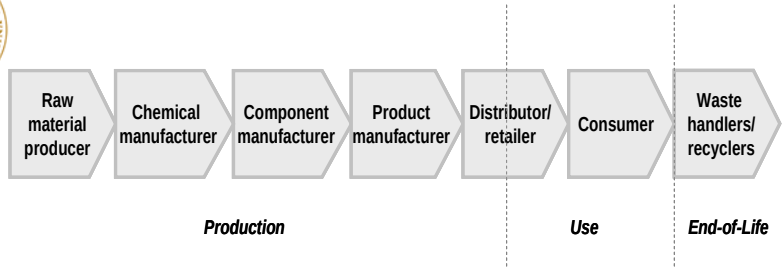
External stakeholders to consumers/customers and the public

- External organisations collects, interpret and present information to consumers and general public
- Different ways to source information
  - Tests, literature, producer inquireries
- Information on the web, apps, etc.
- Drivers: insufficient available information
  - GoodGuide, Healthy stuff, Pharos

The found CiP information systems

- Most components in place in all systems
- But look and work differently
  - stakeholder involvement
  - information quality
  - type of information
  - openness
  - organisational structure and resources

Stakeholders' need for CiP information



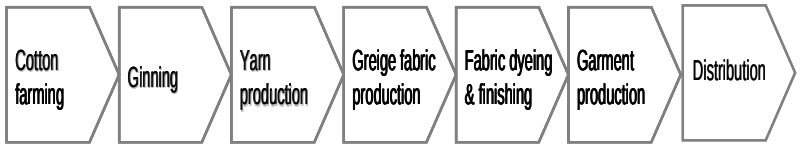
- Producers (production, distribution and sale of products)
- Consumers
- EoL actors

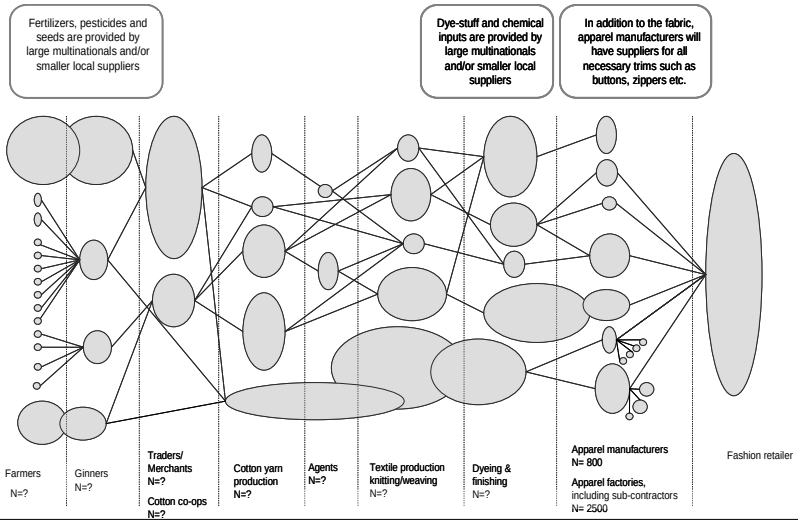
- Government agencies and policy makers
- NGOs

CiP information needs

- Chemicals related information:
  - content, amounts, hazard and risk
- Producer related information:
  - traceability, monitor compliance
- Supply chain related information:
  - companies behind the final product
- Information regarding precautions for safe use/handling and disposal:
  - Also accidents, recycling
- Information related to the end-of-live management:
  - Chemical content, location of substances, waste disposal

Example: a textile supply chain





On stakeholders' information needs

- Tremendously heterogeneous:
  - Skills, knowledge and capacity
  - Resources
  - Priorities and values of individuals and organisations
  - Contexts (social, cultural, environmental, regulatory)

Gaps

Sector	Some examples of existing systems for provision of CiP related information to actor in one or several tiers of the product chain
Clothing & apparel	Öko-tex, Eco-labels, Healthy Stuff. Proprietary systems based on company or sector RSL initiatives.
Children's products, including toys	Ecolabels, Healthy Stuff, GoodGuide, Toy Safety Certification Program, Arnika, Systems according to the IPC 1752 standard (for electronic toys). Proprietary systems based on company or sector RSL initiatives.
Computers, cellular phones & electronic goods + Electrical goods and household appliances	Systems according to the IPC 1752 standard, BOMCheck, EPEAT, Environmental Product Declarations, AEHS. Proprietary systems based on company or sector RSL initiatives.
Batteries	BOMCheck, Eco-labels. Information systems designed to meet legal requirements for information provided on the product, such as EU Battery Directive.
Building materials	BASTA, Pharos, Building Material Declarations, Eco-labels, Environmental Product Declarations
Furniture and bedding	Eco-labels, Öko-Tex. Proprietary systems based on company or sector RSL initiatives.
Food Containers and food packaging	Arnika. Proprietary systems based on company or sector RSL initiatives.
Automotive sector	International Material Data System (IMDS), JAMA/JAPIA, JAMP, Healthy Stuff. Proprietary systems based on company or sector RSL initiatives.
Paper and printed materials	Eco-labels
Non-food packaging	BOMCheck, Eco-labels, Arnika. Proprietary systems based on company or sector RSL initiatives.
Cosmetics and Personal Care Products	Skindeep, GoodGuide, Healthy Stuff, legal requirement regarding declaration of content on the packaging of the product
General/Unspecified product groups	California Proposition 65, IMERC, Environmental Product Declarations

Systems, stakeholders and needs for CiP information

- Several and different stakeholders with different information needs all over the world
- Different abilities to utilise the information (evaluate, interpret data for decisions)

Many systems – patchy information and accessibility

- Chain interaction and coverage works, as alternative to sample the product
- Great variation in system design and provided information
- Provides information between many different types of actors
- Systems and users identified in all parts of the world
  - Often initiated in Japan, Europe and North America

Some conclusions on gaps

- Many actors in all stakeholder groups and all regions express need for better information
- Mainly on chemical content
- Different ability to make use of the information
- Few comprehensive systems broadly adopted

Reflections on closing gaps

Potential CiP information systems

- Many challenges: balancing interests, levels of ambition, etc
- Heterogeneous needs
- Practical matters, for instance:
  - Type of information
  - Format for information exchange
  - Technical platforms
- Harmonized, user-friendly, and appropriate

One way of harmonizing a CiP information system

- Tier 1: know what substances are present in the product or able to migrate from it – easier to harmonize
- Tier 2: information on/interpretation of what the chemical content means, should be evaluated, and instructions for actions – tailored support functions to be harmonized by and for certain stakeholder groups to meet different needs

Further challenges

- Full disclosure or pre-defined substances
- Rules and principles
- Information access
- Control and verification (incl. ownership and responsibilities)
- Sanctions
- Information format and technical platform
- Legal status

Role of policy-making

- Defining and shaping requirements and responsibilities
- Considering use of hazardous substances in permit processes
- Voluntary agreements
- Stricter information requirements in EoL
- Foster public knowledge
- Build and improve knowledge and capacity
- Well-designed policy-mixes

Thank you! Questions?

Introduction to the study:

Chemicals in Products

An overview of systems for providing information regarding chemicals in products and of stakeholders' needs for such information

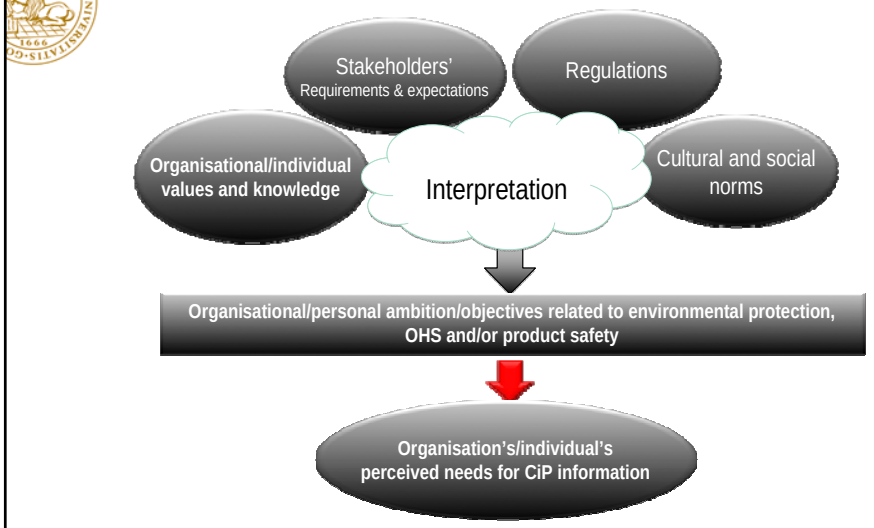
the international institute for industrial environmental economics
Lund University, Sweden
iiiee

Report outline

- Report covers:
  - Chapter 1: Introduction
  - Chapter 2: Descriptions of identified CiP information systems
  - Chapter 3: Overview of stakeholders need for CiP information
  - Chapter 4: Discussion regarding gaps identified between stakeholder needs and existing systems
    Reflections on closing the gap

Two key terms

- Products:
  - Article means an object which during production is given a special shape, surface or design which determines its function to a greater degree than its chemical composition
- CiP Information system:
  - Systematic, formalised, and recurring information transfer on:
    - Chemicals in products
    - health and/or environmental performance of a product based (at least in part) on chemical content
    - all chemicals in products, guidelines for interpretation of whether these chemicals are cause for concern


Stakeholders'
Requirements & expectations
Regulations
Organisational/individual values and knowledge
Interpretation
Cultural and social norms
Organisational/personal ambition/objectives related to environmental protection, OHS and/or product safety
Organisation's/individual's perceived needs for CiP information