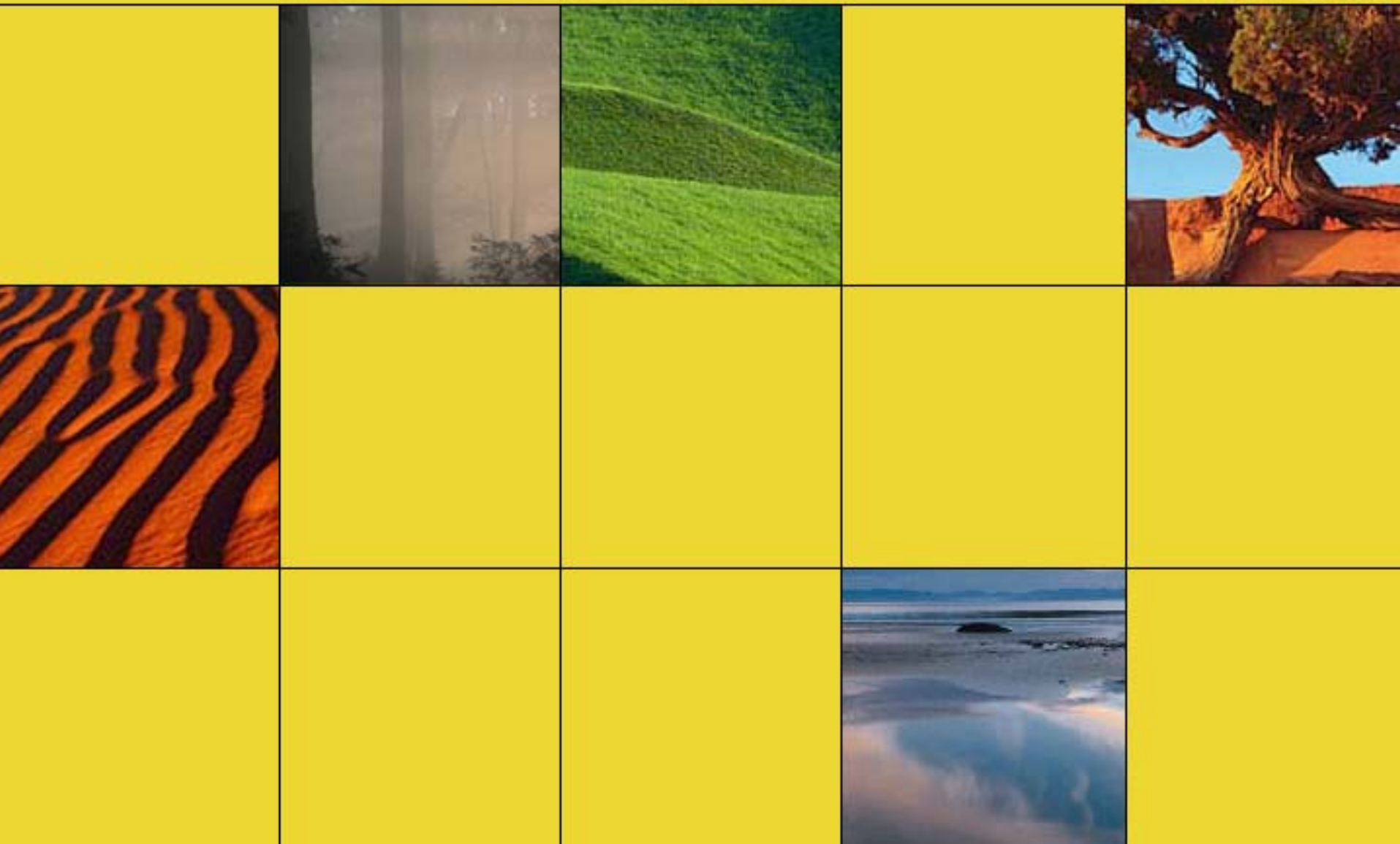


EPA and Import Safety

Charles Auer, Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics





EPA Commitment to Import Safety

- **In order to meet the changing demands of a global marketplace, EPA remains vigilant while continuing to improve our efforts through collaboration, regulation and enforcement.**



Overall EPA Approach

- **Recognizing that U.S. leadership is critical to the development of a strong and effective program for import safety, EPA is applying the new paradigm in its strategic framework which strengthens import safety via a comprehensive lifecycle approach.**
- **Focus is on preventing problems by allowing environmental protections to be better integrated into the design and manufacture of imported products, as well as, the shipping and retail of those products.**



Overall EPA Approach

- In applying this approach, EPA's works to ensure that America's imports are safe for US consumers *and* comply with our strong environmental protections
- Elements of the approach include
 - Working with our federal partners
 - Engaging and cooperating with America's trading partners
 - Working with Private Sector and Stakeholders to explore tools (eg, voluntary standards and conformity assessment approaches) as part of a comprehensive approach to import safety



Working with Federal Agencies and Trading Partners

- **EPA actively participates in the Federal Interagency Import Safety Working Group**
 - Involves Customs and Border Protection and other agencies on the front line ensuring import safety
- **International engagement via**
 - **Technical Assistance and Capacity Building**
 - Training materials and demonstration of inspection methods
 - **Information Exchange**
 - **International Organizations**
 - OECD
 - Codex Alimentarius
 - **Government-to-Government Bodies**
 - NAFTA's Commission on Environmental Cooperation ⁵



Voluntary Standards and Conformity Assessment

- Improved supply chain requirements and tracking
- Improved conformity assessment mechanisms
- Develop and apply
 - Quality and environmental management systems
 - Environmentally preferable purchasing standards
- Training for use and internal verification of standards
- Assistance for small and medium-sized businesses



U.S. Leadership – A Critical Component

Key Elements Include:

- **Early Problem Identification**
- **Science-Based Assessment**
- **Proactive Response**
- **Transparent, Effective, and Measured Oversight Approaches**
- **Active International Engagement Leading to Collaboration**