



ACTION AND REACTION

*Developing a sustainable approach
to emerging chemical issues*

executive summary

Conference Overview

On August 9-10, 2007, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) convened a two-day conference in Baltimore, Maryland, entitled *Action and Reaction: Developing a sustainable approach to emerging chemical issues*. Bringing together nearly 120 stakeholders from the public and private sectors, this event continued a dialogue that began at a September 2006 conference to address the mounting pressure on global manufacturers from chemical controls and government regulatory programs such as REACH, RoHS, WEEE, SAICM, and GHS. Proceedings and presentations are now available for review and download at www.ansi.org/action-reaction.

Key Points of Discussion

Experts from industry, government and the international community shared their perspectives on “green” chemistry issues, chemical controls, and the effect of chemical regulations on producers and users in the global marketplace. Manufacturers and industry representatives, standards developing organizations, government agencies and other attendees shared two primary concerns:

- There is no one size fits all approach to managing chemical issues.
- There is a need for a collaborative network that functions across sectors and national borders.

Attendees also recognized that varying definitions of key terms (e.g., “toxic”) are causing confusion across sectors. Further, U.S. manufacturers and their supply chain partners are being forced to respond to multiple complex requests to gather and verify data that has not been required in the past. Participants confirmed the need to balance industry needs and regulations with mounting environmental, health, safety (EHS), and consumer concerns, and suggested that existing or new standards and testing methodologies could be used to support compliance with any given regulation. Participants also saw a need for the early engagement of key stakeholders in developing a proactive response, and the consistent communication of information up and down the supply chain.

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Prepared by the *Action and Reaction* planning committee and moderators
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Action Items

Participants called for improved cross-industry communication, enhanced private and public-sector collaboration, and the development of proactive approaches to addressing immediate (e.g., REACH implementation) and long term concerns (e.g., future product life cycle and supply chain restrictions).

Immediate Deliverables

- Create a manufacturers' network to focus immediately on information gathering/sharing (lead: ANSI + National Association of Manufacturers)
- Create an "action group" in which all stakeholders can come together to address regulation-specific tactics and begin to define long-term sustainable approaches (lead: ANSI)
- Develop common documents and processes for manufacturers and their supply chain partners to verify compliance with REACH pre-registration (lead: Action Group + Manufacturers Network)
- Identify existing and needed standards and compliance programs, best practices, training, resources, etc. that can be used to address chemical controls (lead: Action Group + Manufacturers Network)
- Develop a safe use communication process for the manufacturers of finished goods (lead: General Motors – P. Beattie)

Long Term Deliverables

- Identify and act on opportunities for ongoing coordination, harmonization and partnering (lead: Action Group + all stakeholders)
- Build upon existing linkages with bilateral, regional and international standards and compliance organizations to address chemical controls on a global scale (lead: ANSI)
- Promote migration from "list-based" regulations towards a "risk-based" approach to life cycle assessment (lead: Action Group + all stakeholders)
- Promote the use of voluntary standards and compliance programs as solutions to regulatory controls (lead: ANSI + Action Group + all stakeholders)
- Develop a materials selection processes that encompasses EHS impacts of finished products (lead: Action Group)
- Develop a strategy to proactively inject science and technology into policy deliberations at the federal and state regulatory levels, and in bilateral and regional forums, while ensuring a proper balance between business needs and EHS concerns (lead: Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association – J. Cooper + Action Group)
- Work collaboratively with U.S. government to address emerging chemical issues (lead: Action Group)

