



ACTION AND REACTION

Developing a sustainable approach to emerging chemical issues

conference wrap-up report — executive summary —

August 9-10, 2007
Baltimore, MD



Action and Reaction

developing a sustainable approach to emerging chemical issues

□ Hosted by the American National Standards Institute

— Follow-up to a September 2006 event hosted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology

□ Sponsored by



Participation

Nearly 120 stakeholders from the private and public sectors

Organizations represented

- Corporations (automotive, computer hardware and software, chemical, electrical components, manufacturers and more)
- Government agencies
- Academia
- Industry associations
- Professional organizations
- Policy / advocacy firms
- Standards developers
- Third party certification bodies

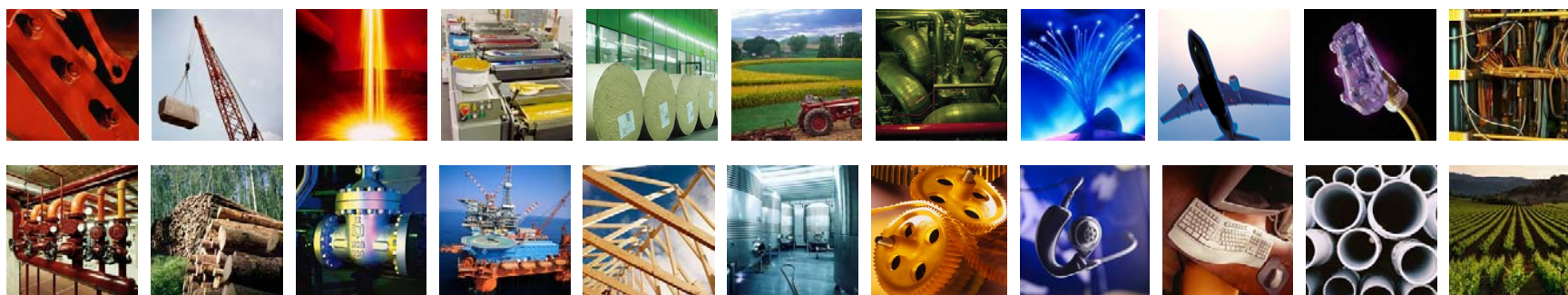
Titles / Positions represented

- EHS Professionals
- Scientists
- Policy
- Standards
- Journalists

Purpose

To address the impact of domestic and foreign chemical controls and government regulatory programs such as REACH, RoHS, WEEE and GHS on U.S. industry and global manufacturers.

To explore how the standards and conformity assessment community can help to balance the social and economic impact of these regulations.



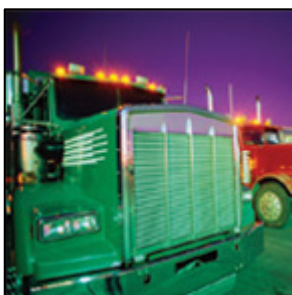
Problem Statement

U.S. manufacturing and supply chain is reacting to numerous emerging **foreign** chemical regulations adversely impacting innovation and competitiveness....

- **ELV**: End of Life Vehicle
- **WEEE**: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
- **RoHS**: Restriction of Hazardous Substances
- **REACH**: Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals
- **GHS**: Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling
- **WHN**: What the Heck is Next ???

The cost of dealing with multiple chemical regulation and control requirements in different markets goes far beyond the chemical industry itself.

– Dr. Nina McClelland
Program Chair



16%



Chemicals: 16% of the value of materials in the **automotive sector**



30%



30% of the value of **medical supplies**



33%



33% of the value of **semiconductor materials**

Conference Program

- Conference proceedings available online at the following URL:

www.ansi.org/action-reaction



Keynote Address

Dr. John Marburger

Science Advisor to the President and
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President

Conference Program (continued)

Day One: Panels

- ❑ Perspectives on REACH
- ❑ Current Activities / Issues in Industry
- ❑ Current Activities / Issues in Government
- ❑ Current Activities / Issues in the Global Arena

Day Two: Breakout Sessions

- ❑ **Manufacturers Network**
breakfast organized by NAM
- ❑ **Track One** (two sessions)
Product Life Cycle
- ❑ **Track Two** (two sessions)
Supply Chain
- ❑ **Track Three** (two sessions)
Influencing Policy
- ❑ Luncheon organized by the
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Discussion Points

- ❑ U.S. manufacturers are *reacting* to regulation rather than being *proactive*
 - Each sector is acting in a “silo”
 - The “no common approach” negatively impacts supply chain

- ❑ U.S. manufacturers and their supply chain partners are being forced to respond to multiple complex requests to collect and verify data that has not been required in the past

- ❑ Varying definitions of key terms (e.g., “toxic”) are causing confusion across sectors

Discussion Points (continued)

- ❑ Different countries / regions are defining different environmental regulations and expectations around common issues
 - Negatively impacting quality and ability to ship product
 - Forcing manufacturers to “deselect” materials
 - Costing U.S. manufacturing and end users billions of dollars

- ❑ Standards and testing methods either do not exist or are not being used to support regulatory compliance

- ❑ State and other local governments are creating their own solutions because there is not currently an overarching national (federal) approach

Discussion Points (continued)

- ❑ There is no process to verify compliance for REACH / other regulations
- ❑ Better interaction and collaboration is needed between industry, government, standards developers, professional / scientific and other concerned organizations
- ❑ There is a lack of coordinated communication between industry, regulators and consumers
- ❑ Early identification of issues and engagement of both policy and scientific community is needed
 - There is no process for injecting science into early stages of deliberation

Agreements and Action Items

- ❑ 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

 - Cross-industry communication and processes (“slice through the silos”)
 - Communication up and down the supply chain

 - Enhanced private and public-sector collaboration

 - 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 + NAM

- ❑ **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 a safe use communication process for manufactured, finished products**

Lead: General Motors – P. Beattie

- ❑ **Develop common documents and processes for manufacturers and their supply chain partners to verify compliance with REACH pre-registration**

Lead: 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

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 + scientific stakeholders

- ❑ **Promote the use of voluntary standards and compliance programs as solutions to regulatory controls**

Lead: ANSI + Action Group + relevant stakeholders

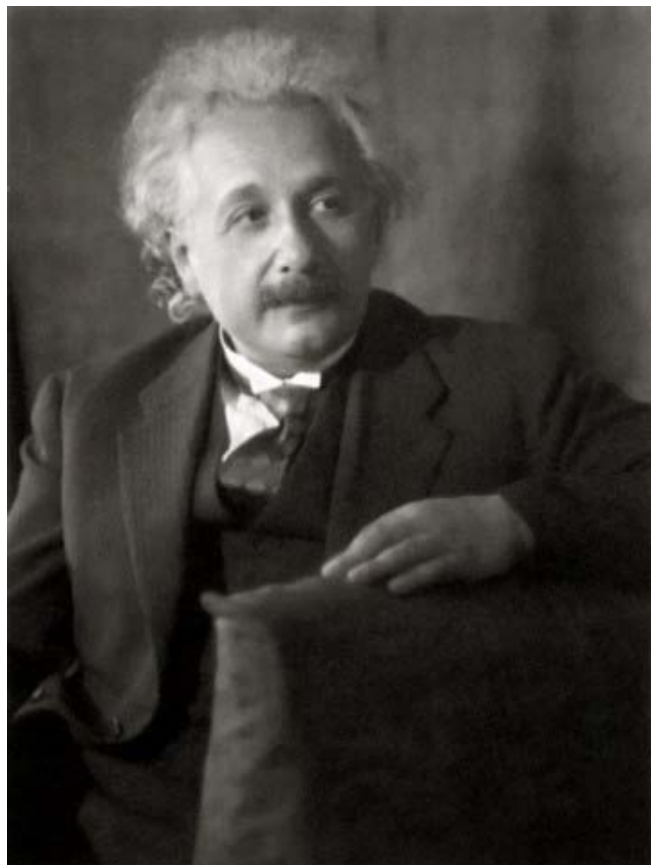
Long Term Deliverables (continued)

- ❑ **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



Conclusion

The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.

— Albert Einstein

We need a mindset change. We must work together to inject science into policy.

For more information



If you would like more information about the action group / manufacturers network, please contact **Brian Meincke** at ANSI
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