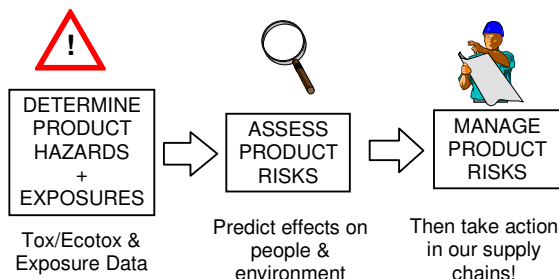


## Managing Chemical Products Safely in Supply Chains

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The principles and practices by which chemical products can be safely manufactured, handled, used and disposed of, have been established especially over the past 20 years under the global chemical industry's Responsible Care and product stewardship initiatives.



Despite the evidence that robust product stewardship programmes help to reduce business risks and can lead to business advantages, the widespread implementation of meaningful product stewardship programmes has been one of the most challenging aspects of health, safety and environment management in the chemical manufacturing and using industry sectors.

Business managers want to know that the effort put into working closely with suppliers and customers to improve overall product safety performance in their supply chains achieves positive results, and preferably adds to, or at least protects, the financial bottom-line.

INERTIA	INCENTIVE
Business case not always clear	Understanding & managing product risks helps protect business
Little / no customer pressure	Customers value help with HS&E matters
No serious accidents or incidents - yet	Helps uncover new business opportunities
Takes effort to define 'who needs to do what' – throughout the supply chain	Sound chemicals management can add value to a company
Expert resources may be lacking	Contributes to compliance with modern chemicals legislation e.g. REACH in the EU

A business team which experiences significant discomfort about the state of chemicals management within some or all of its supply chains will want to initiate many or all of the following 'getting started' measures:

- appointment of a product stewardship co-ordinator
- high-level gap-analysis to define priorities for action, identify resource requirements etc.
- establishment of a cross-functional product stewardship steering group, which includes senior managers
- securing expert resources knowledgeable about the assessment of chemical hazards and risks
- training of business personnel in their product stewardship roles and responsibilities
- generation and provision of safe-use and -handling information

### Further information

Global Product Stewardship Guidelines, International Council of Chemical Associations, December 2007: <http://www.icca-chem.org/pdf/Guidelines.pdf>