



Chemicals Management

Short update on current progress in Sweden

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Contents

- Introduction
- A Non Toxic Environment
- Action plan on a Toxic Free Daily Environment - priorities
- Looking forward



The Swedish Chemicals Agency

- Supervisory authority under the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, founded in 1986
- Works in Sweden, within the EU and internationally to reduce risks from chemicals to human health and the environment
- Focus on preventive chemicals control, placing chemicals on the market.
- Located in Stockholm. Staff: about 280 (chemists, toxicologists, ecotoxicologists, lawyers, administration)



Brief overview – Swedish Chemicals Control

- 1663-1906 first regulations on poisons
- 1953 Plant Protection Ordinance
- 1962 Poison Board and new legislation
- 1967 Environmental Protection Agency
- 1971 Restrictions on PCB
- 1973 Act on Products Hazardous to Health and the Environment
- 1973 Product Control Board
- 1986 Act on Chemical Products
- **1986 Swedish Chemical Agency**
- 1995 Sweden becomes an EU member state
- 1998 Environmental Code
- 1999 Environmental Quality Objectives
- 2000 – A number of EU legislations and international conventions and agreements

The Swedish Parliament have adopted 16 Environmental Quality Objectives



Reduced Climate Impact



Clean Air



Natural Acidification Only



A Non-Toxic Environment



A Protective Ozone Layer



A Safe Radiation Environment



Zero Eutrophication



Flourishing Lakes and Streams



Good-Quality Groundwater



A Balanced Marine Environment, Flourishing Coastal Areas and Archipelagos



Thriving Wetlands



Sustainable Forests



A Varied Agricultural Landscape



A Magnificent Mountain Landscape



A Good Built Environment



A Rich Diversity of Plant and Animal Life

A non-toxic environment – the objective

- *Presence of substances in the environment, produced or extracted by society, shall not be a threat to human health or biodiversity. Contents of anthropogenic substances are close to zero and their effect on human health and environment is negligible. Contents of naturally occurring substances are close to background levels*

(my translation)



A toxic free everyday environment

- Governmental assignment to develop and execute an action plan for a toxic free everyday environment
- Principal challenges identified:
 - Hazardous substances in articles is an increasing problem
 - Our food and drinking water needs better protection
 - Children and adolescents are particularly sensitive
- Action plan contribute to most priorities from 2011 and forward
- Various instruments used (legislation, voluntary, coop with NGO, industry and other stakeholders, etc.)

What we do – some examples and priorities

National

- National measures:
 - PFAS in fire-fighting foam
 - Micro-plastics in cosmetics
 - Triclosan and other preservatives
- Research on nano materials (funding of Swetox)
- Procurement criteria for pre-schools together with the Agency for public procurement
- Municipal network
- Coop with NGO “Keep Sweden Tidy” to include chemicals in the curricula for pre schools and primary schools
- Enforcement

What we do – some examples and priorities

EU

- Increased work with
 - Substance evaluation
 - Proposals for harmonized classification for SVHC
 - Proposals for EU-common restrictions
- Further developing specific product directives (toys, electronics)

International

- Contribute to developing the conventions (Stockholm, Minamata)
- SAICM

Major challenges remain

- The strive to achieve a non-toxic environment will need to continue also after 2020
- Flow of articles will increase – we still lack knowledge on contents
- Food and water are still being contaminated
- Children are still exposed to hazardous chemicals
- A number of instruments needs to be explored also in the future, on national, EU and international level

High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste (HAA)

- Promote an ambitious approach to sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020
- Launched in New York on July 17, 2018
- Governments, IGO, CSO and Industry
- Side event and statement at UNEA4 in Nairobi
- Plans for IP3 (Beyond2020-process) and climate-COP in Chile,

Useful links

- The Environmental Quality Objectives:
<http://www.swedishepa.se/Documents/publikationer6400/978-91-620-8620-6.pdf?pid=6759>
- Final report, A toxic-free everyday environment (in Swedish with English summary): <https://www.kemi.se/en/global/rapporter/2017/rapport-6-17-handlingsplan-for-en-giftfri-vardag-2015-2017-slutredovisning.pdf>
- Statement on HAA at UNEA4:
<http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/high-ambition-alliance>

Thank You for your
attention!

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