

# **National Chemical Substances Management Policy Guidelines**

**Environmental Protection Administration Executive Yuan,  
R.O.C. (Taiwan)**

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# **I. Introduction**

The production, research and development of chemical substances have facilitated worldwide achievement in economic development and social progress. Nevertheless, improper use and management of chemical substances must not be ignored as they can harm human health and pollute the environment. In Taiwan, there are 13 governmental departments and agencies related to chemical substances management, each with its respective regulations and policies. With over 100,000 types of known chemical substances in Taiwan, the management of chemical substances requires interdepartmental collaboration with a key actor in charge of information gathering and integration. This will help achieve objectives such as the enhancement of examination and analysis technology and elevation of the public's level of knowledge about chemical substances. To demonstrate its determination to promote the chemical substances management system, the Executive Yuan integrated the capacities and resources of all government departments and agencies and promulgated the “National Chemical Substances Management Policy Guidelines” (hereinafter referred to as the Guidelines).

## **II. Policy Framework and Administration Objectives**

Based on the “UN Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management” (SAICM), the Guidelines are shaped by international principles of chemical substances management. The five major objectives of chemical substances management and strategy related thereto are formulated according not only to regulations and policies of different governmental departments and agencies, but also according to national and local environmental conditions. The purposes of the Guidelines are to realize the vision of safe use and management of chemical substances in Taiwan, thereby protecting human health and the environment.

To effectively manage and reduce risks related to chemical substances, the

Guidelines set objectives of launching interdepartmental coordination and collaboration among 13 governmental departments/agencies, along with 17 regulations. The government also reviewed past chemical substances management outcomes and the effectiveness of governmental departments/agencies over the last decade. It then integrated the chemical substances management capacities of governmental departments/agencies by outlining practical (short-term) and strict (long-term) strategies. For example, food safety, occupational accidents, public safety and pollution are key issues that must be managed in order to maintain the health of our citizens and quality of our living environment. Moreover, these strategies enable us not only to enhance internal, horizontal interdepartmental connections, but also to connect internationally. The Guidelines have the visions of “effectively managing chemical substances” and “constructing a healthy and sustainable environment”. Also, five key capabilities for the management of chemical substances were stated – governance, risk reduction, management capacity, knowledge establishment and cross-border management – as administrative objectives. With the guidance of the government’s policies and investment of resources, the safety management of chemical substances is expected to be effectively strengthened, safeguarding human health and our environment from the risks and threats of chemical substances. At the same time, we connect to the world to enhance the competitiveness of our chemical substances and commodities in the world market.

The Guidelines also outlined the framework National Chemical Substances Management Policy as the blueprint for the future development of chemical substances management. The administrative objectives of the Guidelines are as follows:

1. Governance –Set a national vision and build the regulatory system: Follow international trends to develop localized goals and indicators.
2. Risk Reduction –Ensure correct usage and develop a toxic-free environment: Prevent incidents and health risks caused by the misuse of chemical substances by enhancing occupational safety, food and public safety; reinforce national waste handling and management methods to

enhance the control of hazards due to chemical substances.

3. **Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation:** Demonstrate the effectiveness of a multi-sector mechanism that responds to defined needs, and use the practice of securing wide stakeholder ownership of projects and initiatives that have broader implications for chemical management. Raise the level of attention paid to such issues at national, regional and global levels which will result in enhanced synergies, policy responses, formal networks among stakeholders, and the identification of appropriate implementation mechanisms.
4. **Knowledge and Information –** Contribute to an enhanced knowledge of the chemicals management situation of relevant countries, by developing policy and legal frameworks, strengthening institutional capacity, and by mainstreaming and fostering enhanced coordination and cooperation among intergovernmental organizations so as to expand stakeholder participation in the sharing of knowledge and information on the sound management of chemicals.
5. **Illegal International Traffic –** Actions and cooperation among national, regional and global levels are needed to prevent and detect illegal trafficking of chemicals and hazardous wastes, including efforts towards more effective enforcement of international conventions related to the transboundary movement of chemicals and hazardous waste.

### **III. Promotion Strategy**

The promotion strategies are categorized according to the five administrative objectives of the Guidelines.

#### **1. Governance**

- (1) Establish systems related to chemical substances management, including control, compensation and protection systems
- (2) Complete regulations on chemical substances management
- (3) Develop a national action plan for chemical substances management

- (4) Establish or create a national chemical substances management platform or reports; set up an interdepartmental coordination mechanism
- (5) Improve chemical substances management related financial resources

## **2. Risk Reduction**

- (1) Establish control measures with respect to labor safety, daily food commodities, and public health
- (2) Promote green chemistry and encourage industry to develop low-chemical risk production processes
- (3) In coordination with circular economy enhance the efficiency of chemical substances and management methods of waste to minimize the discharge of chemical substances and mitigate chemical impacts on human health and the environment
- (4) Establish mechanisms and instruments for chemical risk and hazard assessment to prevent and mitigate the impacts of chemical substances on human health and the environment
- (5) Establish notification and emergency response mechanisms and recovery processes for chemical hazards and pollution incidents

## **3. Capacity**

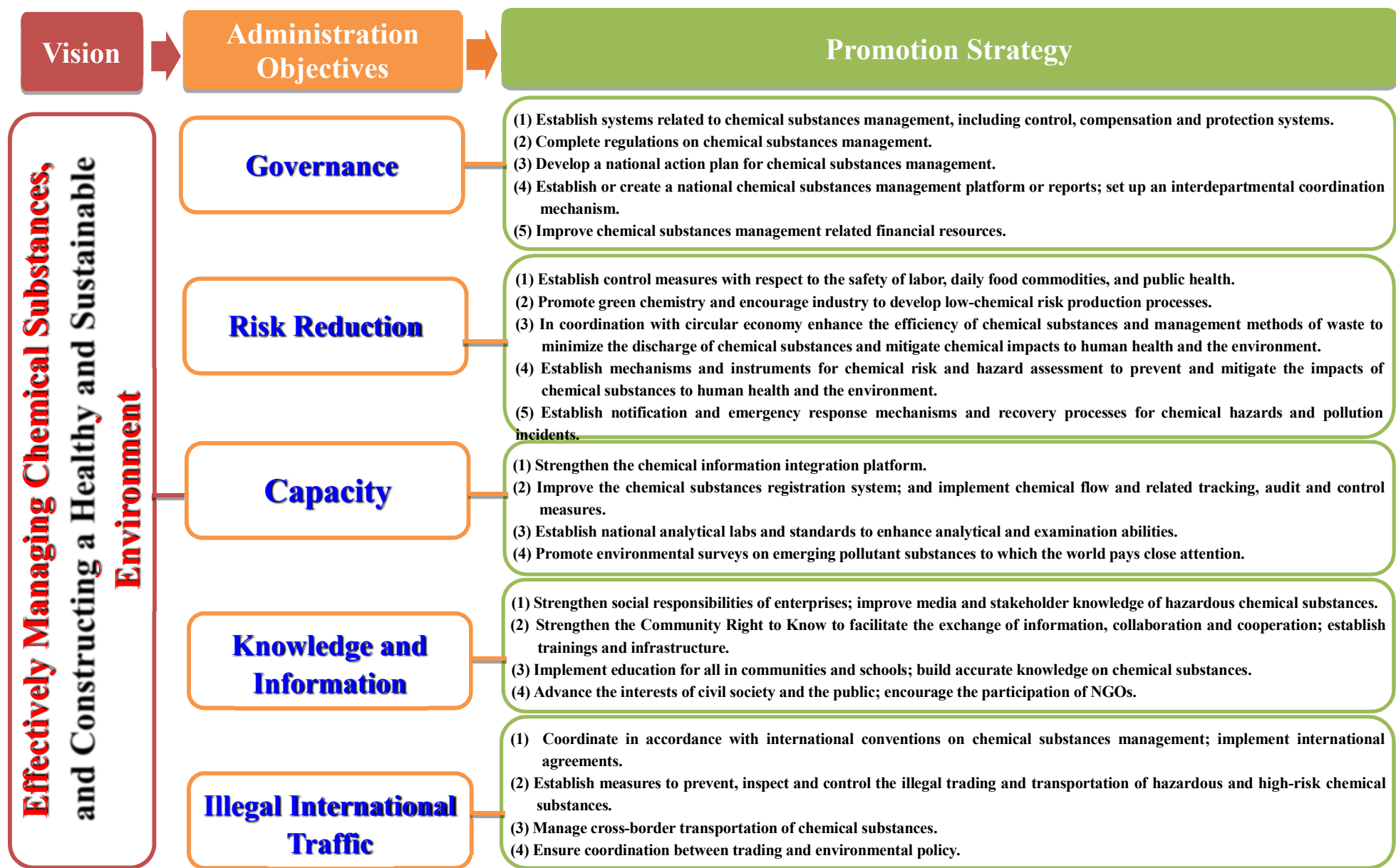
- (1) Strengthen the chemical information integration platform
- (2) Improve the chemical substances registration system; implement chemical flow and related tracking, audit and control measures
- (3) Establish national analytical labs and standards to enhance analytical and examination abilities
- (4) Promote environmental surveys of emerging pollutant substances to which the world pays close attention

## **4. Knowledge and Information**

- (1) Strengthen social responsibilities of enterprises; improve media and stakeholder knowledge of hazardous chemical substances
- (2) Strengthen the Community Right to Know to facilitate the exchange of information, collaboration and cooperation; establish trainings and infrastructure
- (3) Implement education for all in communities and schools; build accurate knowledge of chemical substances
- (4) Advance the interests of civil society and the public; encourage the participation of NGOs

## **5. Illegal International Traffic**

- (1) Coordinate in accordance with international conventions on chemical substances management; implement international agreements
- (2) Establish measures to prevent, inspect and control the illegal trading and transportation of hazardous and high-risk chemical substances
- (3) Manage cross-border transportation of chemical substances
- (4) Ensure coordination between trading and environmental policy
- (5) Actively participate in international organizations and meetings related to chemical substances management



**Annex: Framework of National Chemical Substances Management Policy**