

RISK REDUCTION OF CHEMICALS

e-Learning course

Learn about the risk management of chemicals and how the early use of information on their properties and limiting exposure to chemicals with adverse effects can lower risk, resulting in reduced harm to humans and lowered costs.



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Background and overview

This course is based on the Swedish Chemical Agency's - KemI - publication on "Risk Reduction of Chemicals", one of a series of documents developed by the Swedish Chemicals Agency, is a complement to the UNEP Guidance on the Development of Legal and Institutional Infrastructures and Measures for Recovering Costs of National Administration (LIRA guidance). It supplements the LIRA guidance with further guidance related to risk reduction measures with regard to the control of chemicals placed on the market.

The aim of this course is to give guidance to countries (governments and authorities) in their efforts to set up an efficient system for the sound management of chemicals with a special focus on legal and voluntary tools for risk reduction of chemical substances, on their own or when used in mixtures or in articles. The course focuses on preventive chemicals control; measures directed towards the placing of chemicals on the market. The risk management of chemicals covered here makes use of information on the properties of chemicals at an early point in their life cycle, helping to manage exposure to chemicals with adverse effects.

Target group

This course is targeted at national chemicals officials but is intended to be of interest to a broad range of sectors and stakeholders involved in chemicals management at the national level (e.g. agriculture, environment, health, labour, trade and industry, transport).

It may be of particular relevance to those directly involved in undertaking and/or evaluating risk assessments or involved in any steps of the risk

General learning objectives

After taking the course, participants will be able to:

- Explain the key steps in the risk reduction process
- Describe and compare the different roles and responsibilities of government and industry in the risk reduction process
- Explain the importance of providing accurate information regarding hazards and exposure
- Identify different instruments that can be used as risk reduction measures for different contexts



Course structure

Module 1 – Risk, risk reduction and risk prevention

Learning objectives

- Understand the basics of risk reduction and risk prevention
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of government and industry in risk reduction
- Identify elements and actions to start risk reduction and how to manage it
- Understand the importance of chemicals classification and labelling (GHS) as an effective way to disseminate chemical-related information

Content

1. The basics of risk reduction
2. Roles and responsibilities of government and industry
3. Legislation as a foundation for risk reduction
4. Dissemination of information along the supply chain

Module 2 – The role of risk assessment

Learning objectives

- Understand how risk is assessed
- Understand the roles of industry and government in risk assessment
- Describe how industry and government roles are complementary

Content

1. How is risk assessed?
2. Role of the authorities in risk assessment
3. Role of industry in risk assessment

Module 3 – Priority setting (prioritising chemicals for risk management)

Learning objectives

- Describe the different ways to prioritise substances and the information to be taken into account when setting priorities
- Explain the importance of reliable sources of information
- Discuss how experiences from other countries and international conventions can further support national processes for prioritisation of chemicals

Content

1. What substances should be prioritised?
2. Sources of information supporting prioritisation
- 3.



Module 4 – Risk reduction instruments

Learning objectives

- Describe the process and factors taken into account to choose a risk reduction process
- Explain the type of administrative instruments for risk reduction and how these can be complemented by economic and informative instruments
- Describe the main international conventions and agreements supporting risk reduction and how their implementation can support national efforts

Content

1. How to choose the most appropriate risk reduction instrument
2. Administrative instruments
3. Economic policy instruments
4. Informative instruments (and general information)
5. Implementation of international conventions

Methodology, resources and certification

The course, about 45 minutes to complete, is self-paced and adapted to the schedule of full-time working professionals. Participants are provided with the opportunity to learn through various experiences: absorb (read); interact (activity); and reflect (relate to one's own reality). This includes videos, interactive lessons, reading materials and quizzes.

Despite being self-standing, the 4 modules of the course must be completed in order.

Each module concludes with a quiz which will assess the knowledge learners will acquire. If learners pass the quiz with a 100% mark, a certificate of completion will be issued to them.

Participants will be requested to provide feedback on the course by filling in a feedback form after completing all the modules, accessible anytime.



Technical requirements

The course can be completed on any computer (Windows and Mac) or mobile device. Any internet browser is compatible as long as it has been updated to its latest version.





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