

SAFER CHEMICALS PROCUREMENT TOOLKIT



Introduction

This Safer Chemistry Toolkit is designed to provide basic knowledge about hazardous chemicals, coupled with procurement strategies intended to drive the use of safer chemicals, and reduce hazardous substance use in products, and the supply chains that produce them.

We have developed the guidance in this toolkit to help purchasers and suppliers at any point on the maturity curve to develop both strategy and contracting suggestions, as well as support for buy-in and change management.

Our focus is on enabling procurement professionals to take action and add their voice to the growing pressure to transition to more benign chemistries and materials. We have tried wherever possible to identify accessible steps that purchasers can take immediately, as well as longer term strategies.

Our guidance here is intended to help procurement organizations align their own safer chemicals requirements with others' wherever possible - to aggregate spend to send a clear demand signal to suppliers, to justify the expense and complexity of changing their products or production processes.

Continuous improvement is always a cornerstone of sustainable procurement strategy. Because purchasing is a cyclical activity, your approach can move from modest to mighty over time, as you engage with suppliers, identify alternatives and bring end users along the learning curve.

We encourage you to act now, at whatever level you can, and then to implement more advanced strategies over time – using increasingly rigorous eco-labels and certifications, for example, addressing additional chemicals of concern, or establishing more comprehensive transparency and reduction requirements for your suppliers.

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