Recommendations
for screening assessment of chemicals management

The document includes guiding questions that can lead the screening assessment compiled in groups according to key elements of chemicals management. Answering the questions, assessors are encouraged to provide descriptive information justifying the answers to allow identifying gaps in chemicals management. The document is of a recommendatory character. Any additions/changes are welcomed.
Assessors can consider use of tables to structure information.
It is possible to answer questions "yes", "no", "partly"; but explanatory information should be provided.

Introduction (1-2 pages max)

Please, describe the national context:
some information in chemicals production, formulation, use, import and storage;
give an overview on the chemical industry in your country (e.g., large conglomerates – which sector? mainly importers and processors; mainly SME; activities of chemical associations; etc.)

example of trends of some diseases potentially linked to chemicals, for example, acute poisonings, cancer, endocrine disorders;
some information on exposure (HBM) – for example, in Belarus heavy metals, in Georgia – lead, in Kazakhstan – lead in contaminated sites (Shymkent) or in certain areas such as Kyzylorda with environmental problems

some general information on environment pollution and consumer products containing hazardous chemicals on the market (well known facts can be found in the reports on environment situation;

country obligations that can influence on chemicals management at the national level – for example, EU-GEO agreement and EuroAsian Economic Cooperation;

Any other general information you consider important for initiating and assessment and improving SMC (sound management of chemicals)

*Please, formulate the main **objective** of the assessment:*
For example, to identify gaps and develop road map towards sound chemicals management; to build links with national sustainable development agenda; to raise awareness about needs for improving of chemicals management at the national level for better protection of human health and the environment from risks and negative impacts of chemicals.

Please, indicate the framework in which the assessment is done:
The screening assessment is performed in the framework of the project "Establishment of key elements of national systems for a sound management of chemicals in selected countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia" executed by WHO Regional Office for Europe and funded by The Federal Agency for Environment Protection through its Advisory Assistant Programme.

Please, provide information on how the screening assessment was organized, who lead the process and who contribute to the assessment.

Please, indicate what areas/topics, if any, are excluded from the assessment despite of being an essential and important part of chemicals management: for example, management of emergency situations, regulation of pharmaceuticals and food additives management, chemical weapon, etc.

Chemicals production, formulation and import

The purpose of this section is to get/provide information on types of chemicals including hazardous ones that are used, produced and imported; if information about tonnage is easily available, please, include it; no specific investigation is expected to collect information about tonnage and volume of chemicals and mixtures as well as a number and a profile of enterprises.

What types of chemicals and chemical mixtures/products are imported? (Pesticides for agriculture, pesticides for public health; pesticides for consumers; fertilizers; disinfectants; industrial chemicals (including chemicals with specific characteristics – highly hazardous, EDCs, POPs, hazardous for environment (ozone depleting), carcinogens, etc.; oil and petroleum products; household chemicals)

What types of chemicals and chemical mixtures/products are produced? (*see example of types above)*

Are new chemicals formulated?

Are new mixtures formulated?

Are there plans to increase chemicals/chemical products production and import? *(according to the national development agenda, industry development programs and plans)*

Do you have information on the professional expertise of workers employed in the chemical industry and chemicals trade?

Legislation

Legislation in a context of this document includes laws and other acts having regulating power. Please, provide a list of legislative acts assessed for this section as an annex and focus on elements that are included in the legislation. For example, sanctions can be included in another regulatory act rather than chemical law. The most important is to identify what elements are not regulated. Please, add any other elements of legislation that you consider important and missing in the proposal below.

Are there general provisions requiring protection of human health and the environment from impact of hazardous chemicals in the national legislation?

What types of chemicals/mixtures/products are regulated? Industrial chemicals and their mixtures? Agricultural pesticides? Pesticides for public health? Hazardous chemicals in consumer products? Disinfectants? Etc. *Please, add other categories if needed*

What chemicals/groups of chemicals with specific characteristics are not covered by existing legislation? Nanoparticles/Nanomaterials? Endocrine disrupting chemicals? Persistent in the environment and bioaccumulating? Any other? *Please, specify.*

Are the following principles included in the chemicals and other relevant legislative documents?

Prevention
Precaution
Polluter pays
Rights to know
Knowledge-base management
Transparency

Placing on the market *(assessors can consider to assess legislation regulating different types of chemicals/mixtures (industrial chemicals, pesticides…) separately)*

What elements of chemicals regulation are included in the legislation?

- Role and responsibilities of government authorities
- Role and responsibilities of industry/private sector
- Involvement of public organizations
- Interagency coordination mechanism
- Leading agency
- Registration *(what chemicals*)
- Notification (*what chemicals*)
- Authorizations (*what chemicals*)
- Import permits
- Bans and restrictions (*what chemicals, groups of chemicals, chemicals in products*)
- Specific requirements to chemicals of high concern *(what groups, for example, highly toxic, persistent, bioaccumulation, CMR, EDCs, etc.)*
- Licensing
- Evaluation *(of information on chemicals)*
- Classification and labelling (according to GHS)
- Risk assessment
- Risk communication (labelling, SDSs), communication risks to public
- Monitoring and surveillance systems
- Packaging and repackaging
- Inspections
- Reporting requirements
- Risks management provisions (*for example, obligation to use safer alternatives; precautionary principle)*
- Penalties and sanctions
- Confidentiality of information
- Financing mechanism (fees and charges; governmental resources)
- Appeal

Please, summarise the main gaps

Regulation of chemicals through the life-cycle *(assessors can consider to assess legislation of different groups of chemicals separately)*

Environment protection

- Role and responsibilities of government authorities
- Role and responsibilities of industry/private sector

- Involvement of public organizations
- Emissions and releases permits and control
- Measures to reduce releases and emissions
- Processes and activities permits (EIA, HIA)
- Monitoring
- Specific requirement for certain chemicals and group of chemicals
- Information collection and sharing

Labour protection

- Responsibilities of employers and workers
- Education and training
- Information provision
- Working environment monitoring and control
- Health surveillance
- Protection of vulnerable groups

Consumer products

- Role and responsibilities of government authorities
- Role and responsibilities of industry/private sector
- Involvement of public organizations
- Types of regulated products
- Labelling (provision of information on hazardous chemicals and protective measures)
- Hazardous chemicals standards and limits (are standards for all hazardous chemicals developed and empowered? Are the standards health based?)
- Ban and restriction of use in production of certain products (*for example, lead in paints*)
- Ban and restriction of products for certain population groups
- Monitoring of products safety *(what products*)
- Health surveillance *(poisonings due to products use)*

Transportation

- Permits
- Licensing
- Training
- Risk communication (labelling)

Hazardous wastes

- Role and responsibilities of government authorities
- Role and responsibilities of industry/private sector
- Involvement of public organizations
- Measure to decrease wastes generation (are there any requirements in the legislation?)
- Hazards and risks assessment
- Disposal and treatment
- Specific types of wastes regulation (e-wastes, plastics, lead batteries, POPs, mercury, obsolete pesticides)

Are relevant "second level" legislation/protocols/methodological documents developed to ensure the enforcements of the legislation?

Please, summarise the main gaps

Institutional infrastructure

Laboratory capacities are addressed in sections Information system, Risk assessment and Monitoring

Interministerial and stakeholders' coordination

Is (are) Interministerial commission(s)/committee/group (*further-commission*)to coordinate activities in chemical safety on place? (*please, don't include in this assessment information on commissions dealing with emergency situations)?*

What types/groups of chemicals are covered by the commission(s) mandate?

- Pesticides (agricultural, public health)
- Industrial chemicals
- Consumer products
- Etc.

Are all ministries involved in chemicals management/having a mandate in chemical safety area included in the commission(s)?

Are representatives of civil society invited to work in the commission? Academia? Non-profitable professional organizations?

Are industry representatives present in the commission?

Are representative of local governments involved (for example, from areas where big chemical enterprises are located)?

Does the commission have advisory or executive power?

Does the commission have a scientific and/or technical council/body to provide information for making a decision?

Please, identify gaps in coordination between sectors and stakeholders.

Leading agencies

Is leading agency for management of the following types of chemicals identified and authorised by the government to lead activities in relevant areas of chemicals management?

Industrial chemicals, chemical mixture, products
Pesticides (agricultural) and other agricultural chemicals
Pesticides (public health)
Disinfectants
Consumer products containing hazardous chemicals (please, specify if it is different agencies)

Others (*please, specify*)

Is a department/team in the leading agency established to leadership the work?

National focal points

Is a responsible person in the is appointed to lead activities in chemicals management?
Are national focal points for chemical Conventions and international processes identified and authorised by the government?

- Basel Convention
- Rotterdam Convention
- Stockholm Convention
- Minamata Convention
- SAICM
- WHO Road Map

Institutions

Is poison control centre(s) established? Does it correspond to WHO recommendations?

Are there specific institutions authorised by the government/leading agencies for:

industrial chemicals management
consumer products safety
agricultural chemicals safety and efficacy
biocides safety and efficacy
etc.

Please, summarise the main gaps

Information system

What information is available and what are sources of this information? What institutions are authorised to collect and store this information? (*table can be used to compile this information*)

- on hazardous chemicals/mixtures production (identity, volume) and location of enterprises producing hazardous chemicals
- on hazardous chemicals/mixtures import and information on tracking of imported hazardous chemicals to the place of their use/export
- on hazardous chemicals use (identity, volume) and location of enterprises where they are used
- on hazardous chemicals transportation
- on hazardous chemicals storage
- on hazardous wastes, their volume and location of hazardous wastes disposal/storage sites
- on chemical properties/hazards
- classification and labelling
- safety datasheets
- on chemical risks

- on safe handling
- on safer alternatives
- on illegal traffic of chemicals
- environment monitoring data
- consumer products monitoring data
- on poisonings
- on occupational accidents/diseases related to chemicals
- on impact of chemicals on human health and the environment
- any other available information (*please, specify*)

Is a mechanism for cross-sectoral information exchange on place and correspond the needs?

Is information updated regularly? Who is responsible for that? *(industry, authorised governmental body)*

Is information stored in relevant registers/inventories/databases? *Please, describe*.

Are existing resources for information generating, collection, analysis and interpretation correspond the needs? (*this question is applicable for all types of information listed above; See also some specific question below)*

Are technical documents for testing and generating information on chemicals and mixtures hazards available and validated?

Are technical/laboratory capacities for generating information on hazards of new chemicals and new mixtures available and correspond needs? Are laboratories accredited for these activities?

Are technical/laboratory capacities and human resources for verification of hazards information provided by industry available and correspond needs?

Does human resources are available for verification of labelling and correspond the needs?

Are expertise and capacities to analyse and interpret the information available and correspond the needs?

Is expertise and human resources for verification of information available and correspond the needs?

Is there a mechanism/procedure for industry to get consultations related to chemicals management on place? (helpdesk, other mechanism)

Please, summarise the main gaps

Risk assessment

Is risk assessment required for taking a decisions related to chemicals management? In what cases? Is it included in the legislation? (health impact assessment, sanitary protection zone, permits for industrial activities, other?)

Is there an experience of a country-wide risk assessment exercise to ban or restrict chemicals use/production/import? To prioritise chemicals for monitoring and further investigation?

Is methodology(ies) for human health risks assessment developed?

Is methodology for the environment risk assessment developed?

Are thresholds/standards/limits available to interpret risk assessment rezults? Are they established for all hazardous chemicals used/produced?

Are methodologies for human exposure modelling using environmental/consumer products monitoring data?

Is human biomonitoring program(s) established?

Is there a practise/experience of assessing health risks based on HBM results?

Are harmonized at the country-level methodology for HBM developed? For what chemicals?

Are technical/laboratory capacities available for HBM?

Are human resources/expertise available in governmental institutions for conducting risk assessment? Human health? Environment?

Are human resources/expertise available in industry/private sector for conducting risk assessment? Human health? Environment?

Is risk assessment training included in educational programs of medical/other students?

Is risk assessment training included in post-graduate education of medical/other professionals?

Are industry representatives trained to conduct risk assessment? Who teach?

Please, summarise the main gaps

Monitoring, control and health surveillance

What type of monitoring is established?

environmental monitoring (air, water, soil, wastes)
human biomonitoring
consumer products monitoring
poisonings
occupational diseases
contaminated sites
indoor environment (chemical pollution)
other (*please, specify*)

Are all chemicals of concern included in the monitoring data?

Are technical/methodological document for conducting monitoring developed and correspond to the needs?

Are monitoring data available (regularly, on-line) for authorised professionals? For public?

Are monitoring data allow human health and the environment exposure and risk assessment?

Are technical/laboratory capacity available for monitoring of all chemicals of concern?

Please, summarise the main gaps

Risk reduction

Is a procedure/mechanism/approach to prioritise chemicals according to their health and environment risks on place and applied to justify risk reduction measures?

What national programme on chemical risk reduction are implemented/plan to be implemented? Or chemicals are addressed in national sustainable development/economics development programs? *(Cleaner production programs, Circular economy, Green economy, etc. can be considered)*

Are there national programmes on consumers' safety?

Are tools for management of chemical risks available?

What types of risk reduction measures are most commonly implemented? (penalties, sanctions, ban of production…)

Is a mechanism to promote use of safer alternatives on place?

Is a procedure to withdraw hazardous products from the market on place?

Is a procedure/methodology to assess human health and environment impact on place?

Is there an experience of industry compensation of health (population/individuals) and environment impact due to production/use of hazardous chemicals/products?

Are there any voluntary initiatives to reduce chemicals risks in which industry/private sector participate?

Is methodology for chemicals social-economic impact assessment developed?

Please, summarise the main gaps

Risk communication

In a supply chain

Is labelling of hazardous products an obligation in a supply chain?
Are producers/importers are obliged to accompany hazardous chemicals/mixtures/products with Safety Data Sheets (Safety Passports) in a supply chain?
Are producers/imported obliged to label consumer products if the contain hazardous chemicals?

To public and workers

Is any web-site maintained to provide information related to chemicals to public?
What type of information is provided?

What are other channels for providing information to public on a regular basis? Regular publications, interviews, etc. *Please, specify what information is provided and by whom?*

Is it an obligation for employees to train workers contacting hazardous chemicals before/during employment?

Are chemicals and their health risks information included in educational modules for children?

What is a mechanism/procedure to ensure information credibility and accountability?

Please, summarise the main gaps

Research and Innovation

Has your government funded research for knowledge-based chemicals management?

What types of research were funded? (human health effects, env effects, hazards identification and assessment, risk assessment, safer alternatives development and assessment, etc.)

What are the main barriers (if any) for using scientific research results for policy development?

Participation in international agreements

Party of what Conventions listed below the country is:

ILO:

Convention concerning the Protection of Workers against Ionising Radiations (No. 115)
Convention concerning Safety in the use of Chemicals at Work (No. 170)
Convention concerning the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents (No. 174)
Labour Inspection Convention (ILO 81)
Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention (ILO 129)
Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention (ILO 148)
Occupational Safety and Health Convention (ILO 132)
Asbestos Convention (ILO 162)

UNEP

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticide in International Trade

Minamata Convention on Mercury

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

Other Conventions

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and the Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction

International Health Regulations

Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Information sources:

- Key Elements of a National Programme for Chemicals management and Safety. IOMC, 1998
- Preparing a National Profile to Assess Infrastructure and Capacity Needs for Chemicals Management. Second edition. UNITAR, 2012
- Guidance for Development of SAICM Implementation Plan. UNITAR and SAICM Secretariat, 2009
- UNEP Guidance on the Development of Legal and Institutional Infrastructure and Measures for Covering Costs of National Administration for Sound Management of Chemicals. UNEP, 2012
- SAICM text: Global Plan of Actions
- SAICM: Questionnaire to evaluate a progress in SAICM implementation. SAICM Secretariat, 2008
- IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management