CHEMSEC BUSINESS GROUP

– Dialogue for sustainable business
A DIALOGUE AMONG DOWNSTREAM USERS OF CHEMICALS

ChemSec gathers a group of multinational companies to discuss chemicals management; challenges, opportunities, practical tools and advocacy work.

The ChemSec Business Group is a platform for dialogue among downstream users of chemicals. The member companies, coming from a range of sectors, have an expressed ambition and track record in terms of sustainability. The companies representatives are sustainability managers and professionals responsible for material and chemicals use.

The group serves as a forum in support of progressive chemicals policy, effective corporate practices and awareness of companies’ efforts to be leaders on this issue. It is a forum for member companies to learn about legislative trends and what the future brings.

The companies in the Business Group have made a voluntary commitment to work for the improvement of their own performance as well as to seek greater transparency and relevance of information with regard to chemicals along the value chain. Their involvement reflects an effort to make chemicals regulation as effective and useful as possible in the current and future market.

The group has at various instances acted as an important voice supporting stronger chemicals standards and stricter chemicals regulation. Several of the companies in the Business Group have taken part in stakeholder events and meetings with regulators, making the business case for strengthened chemicals policies.

The ChemSec Business Group was founded at a meeting in 2004, where ChemSec laid the foundation for closely communicating and collaborating with industry. The goal was to find common ground between ChemSec’s pursuit of a world free of hazardous chemicals and individual companies’ ambitions to be successful and more sustainable in their products and processes.

A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND KNOWLEDGE

The ChemSec Business Group is a platform for public activities or partnership opportunities aimed at promoting the understanding of, and providing solutions
to, emerging chemicals issues. The objective is to drive the debate as well as increase engagement in chemicals-related issues.

The group convenes at annual meetings and also have telephone meetings and mail dialogues during the year. In the Business Group, participants may exchange experiences with the group and inform others about good practices in the field of chemicals management. All discussions within the group take place in confidence, opinions expressed and information shared will be handled accordingly. As a guideline, participants will conduct themselves in this regard according to the "Chatham House rules".

Members are also participating in a number of activities within the area of progressive chemicals policies. These include seminars in the European Parliament, business-to-business conferences as well as production of publications demonstrating the business sense of sustainable chemicals policies in industry. The ChemSec Business Group has also been actively involved in the development of the SIN List, a list developed by ChemSec containing Substances of Very High Concern in accordance with the criteria laid out in the EU chemicals regulation REACH. Some of the companies have also shared experiences of substitution in the SUBSPORT case story database.

**A UNIQUE COLLABORATION**

As consumers are becoming more concerned about hazardous chemicals in products, companies want to ensure that their products are safe and that they do not risk the reputation of their brand.

Members benefit from ChemSec’s knowledge about legislative processes and the latest finding from a network of toxicologists and other medical and environmental scientists. Companies also get acquainted with the work and perspectives of an NGO.

For companies present in the European market it is important to understand REACH and learn about new policy development. ChemSec also cooperates with US and other international NGOs giving global companies access to this perspective of global knowledge about chemicals issues and legislation. Members of the business group also get the opportunity to speak up within subjects relevant to their operations.

"Be a Business Group member, share experiences and be ahead of the game. The Business Group is an important platform."

_Eva-Lena Carlén-Johansson, Skanska_
CURRENT MEMBERS
An updated list of the current members of the ChemSec Business Group can be found on the ChemSec website:

www.chemsec.org

CHEMSEC TOOLS

THE SIN LIST
The SIN List is a comprehensive list of substances that are identified by ChemSec as fulfilling the criteria for Substances of Very High Concern as defined by REACH. The SIN List is available as a searchable online database. The database contains substances that are Carcinogenic, Mutagenic or toxic to Reproduction (CMRs), substances that are Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic or very Persistent and very Bioaccumulative (PBTs and vPvBs) and substances of equivalent level of concern.

www.sinlist.org

THE SIN PRODUCERS LIST FOR INVESTORS
The SIN Producers List for Investors aims to assist financial investors to evaluate companies and the financial risks associated with producing high-concern substances, the substances included on the SIN List. This publication consists of stock-exchange-listed companies that have registered the production or import of SIN List chemicals in the EU. The Sin Producers List for Investor brochure is available for downloading at

www.chemsec.org.

SUBSPORT
SUBSPORT, the Substitution Support Portal, is a tool to facilitate the substitution of hazardous chemicals. The web portal is a collaborative project carried out together with European partners. The idea behind SUBSPORT is to provide a first entry point for anyone interested in substitution. SUBSPORT provides useful information on substitution and a large number of substitution resources of various kinds. The portal is available at

www.subsport.eu
I looked at how ChemSec operates and it seems that they understand businesses beyond just looking at risks of chemicals. If you talk to investors you must be able to convince them with financial arguments. I like the business appreciation and that ChemSec understands that we have to run a business.

— Alan Best, Shaw Industries

ChemSec has keenly identified stakeholders that have not previously been heard from in the discussion of increased chemical safety. ChemSec’s support has, for example, enabled parts of industry producing consumer goods to have a stronger voice in the democratic processes expressing their support of stricter chemicals regulations.

— Ethel Forsberg, former Director-General, Swedish Chemicals Agency
ChemSec, a non-profit environmental organisation, is a leading advocate of chemicals policy based on current scientific understanding. Our mission is to substantially reduce the use of hazardous chemicals and its impact on health and the environment. To promote sustainable innovation, we offer guidance and tools for effective chemicals management. In addition, ChemSec works to speed up legislative processes, engage business and act as a catalyst for progressive dialogue and action. Our vision is a world free of hazardous chemicals.

For more information on ChemSec please visit www.chemsec.org, where you can also subscribe to our quarterly newsletter for businesses.