

Serial Lecture: Regulations for Color Materials -9-

J. Jpn. Soc. Colour Mater., 90 [6], 223-228 (2017)

Regulatory Compliance for Hazardous Chemicals in China

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(Received February 17, 2017; Accepted March 30, 2017)

Abstract

In order to strengthen the safety management of hazardous chemicals, to prevent and reduce hazardous chemical accidents, to guarantee the safety of human life and property and to protect the environment, the revised “Regulations on the Control over Safety of Hazardous Chemicals” (Decree 591) came into force since December 1, 2011. In subsequently time, a string of weighty administrative measures, national standards and chemical inventories have been promulgated or entered into force. This paper starts with the particular hazards properties of hazardous chemicals, summarizes the hazardous chemical legislation in China, and Chinese inventory of hazardous chemicals and its implementation guidance. The paper also briefly analyses the main obligations for hazardous chemicals in china, and provide a number of compliance suggestions.

Key-words: Hazardous chemicals, Regulatory compliance, Inventory, Obligations

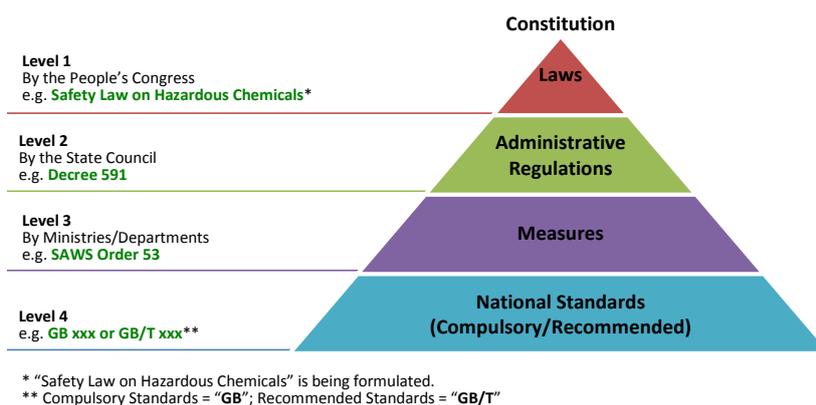


Fig. 1 Legal framework of China.

Hazardous chemicals refers to highly toxic and other chemicals hazardous to the human body, facilities and the environment which have toxic, corrosive, explosive, combusive and combustion-supporting properties. There are great varieties of hazardous chemical, which have a wide variety of applications. Because of the hazard properties, hazardous chemicals can readily cause accidents.

In the event of accident, these hazards always cause economical loss and are accompanied by people's death



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規研究経験をもち、中国国内のGHSおよび
EU法規対応の先駆者である。

and injury, and can even cause environmental pollution and ecological disaster. Therefore, strengthening of the safety management of hazardous chemicals is very important.

1. Overview of hazardous chemical legislation in China

Hazardous chemicals are administrated through a complex regulatory network in China, with more than ten ministries involved. Decree 591 plays the role as key legal document in the whole legislation system. Below it there are numerous departmental measures and national standards, based on their corresponding obligations.

1.1 Administrative regulations promulgated by the state council

On 11 March 2011, the Chinese State Council issued the revised version of “Regulations on the Control over Safety of