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Summary and Future Prospects for New and Existing Chemical Substance Management in Taiwan

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Abstract

Our study first gives the definitions of new/existing chemical substances, then gives a general introduction of the chemical management scheme both internationally and then focused on the chemical substance management approach in Taiwan. In addition, the problems existing in the present management approach are also elaborated in the article.

At the end of this article, suggestions for improvement are also put forward, such as setting up necessary supporting documentations, coordinating the cooperation of different departments to speed up the evaluation of existing chemical substances, communication with advanced countries or regions by regular activities like internal seminar or scientific study with regard to the dossier checking and cutting-edge technology of chemical management.

Key-words: *New chemical substance, Existing chemical substance, Sound management, Risk assessment*

1. Foreword

For the first time in the history of the world, every human being is subjected to contact with chemicals from the moment of conception until death. We are impacted by all sorts of chemicals, which, on one hand, bring convenience and greatly enhance our quality of life, but on the other hand, the improper use of chemicals can put us in danger. There have been numerous past disasters triggered by improper use of chemicals, for instance, large-scale Minamata disease break out in Japan in the mid-1960s, photochemical smog episode in London in early 1950s, Bhopal gas-leakage accident in India, and so on. Human ignorance or over-confidence toward chemicals has lead to severe damage of

our environment and also caused enormous loss of life and property. Whilst we encourage the synthesis and development of chemicals, we have to make sure the use of chemicals over their complete life-cycle are under sound management, more specifically to adopt a risk-based chemical management approach prior to the occurrence of such negative events.

This article gives a general introduction of the chemical management scheme both internationally and then focused on the chemical substance management approach in Taiwan. In addition, the problems existing in present management approaches and suggestions for improvement are also elaborated.

2. Definitions

2.1 Chemical Substances:

A chemical substance is a form of matter that has constant chemical composition and characteristic properties¹⁾. It cannot be separated into components by physical separation methods, i.e., without breaking chemical bonds. Chemical substances can be chemical elements, chemical compounds, ions or alloys.

2.2 National Existing Chemical Inventory:

Normally set up by several nominations, nomination is a voluntary plan to create a list which includes chemical substances that are already widely used in the market over a certain prior time period.

2.3 New Chemical Substances:

Chemical substances that are not listed in the National



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