

4.8 Going beyond

Making the chemicals inventory even more useful

This document is part of the *International Chemicals Management Toolkit for the Toy Supply Chain* developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with the Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF) within the framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project ID: 9771 on Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

Updating

The chemicals inventory is not a 'one-off action' but must be continuously maintained to be useful. The following are some basic activities that help keeping it up to date:

Establish a management routine to ensure that

- new input materials are included in the chemicals inventory
- input materials which are not used anymore are deleted from the chemicals inventory
- changes in the composition of an input material are implemented in the chemicals inventory.

For example, the purchasing department could be responsible for this task and should implement it when they procure new input materials. This means that they should also check [the suppliers' documentation](#) on a regular basis; this will ensure that changes in the composition are communicated and can be noted in the inventory.

As new evidence for concern can emerge from science, regularly review if the status of the chemicals in your inventory has changed to '[of concern](#)'. This includes regular [checks of the legislation](#) and, at a higher level of ambition, also regularly screening the [GHS hazard classification](#).

Extending the information content

There are various options to extend the information content in the chemicals inventory. When you start working with the inventory, you may notice specific information needs and can include additional columns to enter it. For example, it is useful to:

- Include the used amounts of input materials into the inventory as this helps to prioritise chemicals for [taking action](#).
- Include additional information on your supplier into the inventory to facilitate future sourcing. You may prefer suppliers that are open to communicate about chemicals or observe quality problems with some materials. It is useful to note this down.

You can use the USEtox model and assess the human and ecotoxicological impacts of your chemicals in the life cycle impact assessment and include the results into inventory.

A link to USEtox: <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/applying-lca/usetox/>.