SAICM/UCT
Chemicals in Products (CiP) Community of Practice
Discussion Forum

Title: “Traceability tools across supply chains”
Date: 12th May 2022
Time: 14:00 – 15:30
Facilitator: Andrea Rother, University of Cape Town
Presenter: Virginia Cram-Martos (UNECE)
Lorenzo Zullo (ChemChain)
Deborah Taylor (UNECE)
Link to register for the discussion: Please register for this discussion using the following link: https://unep.webex.com/unep/j.php%3FRGID=rc1b616e46e69a15cecd0d9bf42aa77d2

NOTE:
✓ Since this is a discussion, we encourage you to prepare or at least think about the questions prior to joining.
✓ This guide lays out the background to the questions, presents the questions and provides resources if you should wish to read further on the issue.

- Details for joining this discussion are below. To participate in this discussion you will need to have signed up in advance at: www.saicmknowledge.org/community.
- For technical assistance on the day of the discussion go to the CiP CoP WhatsApp group: https://chat.whatsapp.com/DVwGix7x04d1Q9b5usaJcr.
- Connect with laptops/PCs rather than phones since the discussion is done typing.
- Should you NOT be able to join the discussion but still wish to contribute please click the link below and fill out the Form with your contributions: https://forms.office.com/r/ZFEG22BGA0
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENTER BIOSKETCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Virginia Cram-Martos</strong>, UNECE Project Expert. Virginia Cram-Martos is CEO of Triangularity, a social impact company that supports the use of innovation, e-commerce, and trade for development (<a href="https://triangularity.net/">https://triangularity.net/</a>). Previously, she worked as Director of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). She is tri-lingual (English, French, Spanish) and holds an MBA in International Business from the University of Chicago and a Master’s in Finance from the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lorenzo Zullo</strong> graduated in environmental engineering at the Politecnico di Milano (Italy) and in chemical engineering at KTH, the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm (Sweden). He worked for 15 years in Brussels for different European industry associations, including tyre and rubber manufacturers (ETRMA) and the metals sector (Eurometaux). He also had the opportunity to chair the cross industry European Platform for Chemicals Using Manufacturing Industries (CheMi), representing a variety of sectors and comprising approximately 400,000 companies. In 2015 he began his entrepreneurship career. He founded Chemycal, an innovative online platform for companies to monitor chemicals regulatory trends imparting their product portfolio. In 2020, he started to work on ChemChain, a revolutionary blockchain platform to transfer information on chemicals in products along the value chain, from chemical manufacturers to consumers, recyclers, and waste operators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deborah Taylor</strong>, UNECE Project Expert Leather Value Chain. Deborah is the Managing Director of the Sustainable Leather Foundation, a not-for-profit Foundation, set up specifically to support the leather industry in becoming more sustainable. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide a global platform for the benefit of all stakeholders in the leather value chain. A practitioner member of the Chartered Quality Institute and a certified SA8000 lead auditor, Deborah also currently works as a Consultant for the UNECE on a project to “enhance traceability and transparency for more sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector”. In addition, she is a Council Member for the Society of Leather Technologists and Chemists.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DISCUSSION INTRODUCTION – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Traceability tools across supply chains

With increasing pressure for environmental and social due diligence in global value chains, traceability has become a necessity. Without traceability, there can be no transparency and no accountability for the impacts of production and consumption decisions. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), jointly with key industry stakeholders have been working since 2019 on a project, funded by the European Union, to improve the sustainability of value chains in the garment and footwear sectors through greater traceability and transparency.

Taking into account the key risks and challenges, including chemical production, use and disposal risks, the project has created a suite of tools to support sustainable production and consumption that include policy recommendations, business requirement specifications, traceability standards and guidelines for implementation.

As part of this work, the project has also conducted blockchain pilots for both textile and leather value chains, designed to provide proof of concept for the standards and recommendations developed.

Resources:
Please provide any useful resources for participants to use in this section.

- UNECE No.46 Policy Recommendation Enhancing traceability and transparency of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector (2021)
- UNECE Call to Action for Traceability, Transparency, Sustainability and Circularity of Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector (2021)
- UNECE initiative for Transparency and Traceability for Sustainable Value Chains in Garment and Footwear: project’s leaflet
- UNECE The Sustainability Pledge Website
Question 1:
What is the role of traceability to support sustainability in the production and use of chemicals in supply chains?

Resources/Information for the Discussion:

We encourage you to think about the poll questions before the discussion so you can contribute with your responses:

Poll questions:

Poll 1: Are there policies and legislations in place in your country that support traceability of chemicals in supply chains?
- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Poll 2: Are you currently using any traceability systems / frameworks to verify claims about chemicals use in products?
- Yes, which one?
- No
- Not sure

Background for question 2

Having access to information on chemicals in products is necessary to ensure that products are handled safely, as well as to trace and recycle valuable raw materials. As part of the Sustainable Product Initiative, the European Commission is planning to develop a Regulation on Digital Product Passports. This represents an opportunity to reach transparency on materials and chemical compositions of products.

However, information on chemicals is usually scattered among different actors along the supply chain. Collecting it and making it accessible during the entire product lifecycle is a challenge that ChemChain has been working on over the past two years. ChemChain has developed a cross-industry platform to create and share digital product passports, allowing companies to provide information on their products during their entire life cycle, from manufacturing, to use and disposal/recycling.

The technology has been already successfully piloted by major chemical companies - Dow, Solvay and Procter & Gamble - to enhance transparency in some of the supply chains where their chemicals are used: furniture, textile/clothing and detergents. Such level of
transparency enables tracing sustainability of material sources, identifying products suitable for recycling, along with technical information to recover and reuse certain chemicals.

**Question 2:**

Do you think the use and transfer of information on chemicals in products along the value chain via DPPs is an opportunity to reach sustainability and circularity?

What is the main challenge in your view?

**Resources/Information for the Discussion:**

- Chemchain website and video pitch.
- Dow – Press release 18.3.2021 – “Dow launches blockchain pilot for mattress recycling program”.
- Cefic newsroom – “Communicating About Substances Along The Value Chain: What’s The Latest?”
- Cefic SDG targets – “Tracking Chemicals Along The Value Chain To Ensure Recyclability”
- EU Commission Sustainable product Initiative.

We encourage you to think about the poll questions before the discussion so you can contribute with your responses:

**Poll questions**

**Poll 1:** Do you think every product in the future will have to come with its own digital product passport?

- Yes, all products should have a DPP
- No, DPPs could be useful only for some products. Please specify which ones
- No. Digital product passports are not the solution to increase information on chemicals in products

**Poll 2:** What is the main challenge in your view to implement digital product passports?

- Standardization
- Acceptance / additional burden by industry
- Confidentiality
- Infrastructure
- Costs
- Other (please specify)
**QUESTION 3 – (15:05 GMT+2) – Deborah Taylor (UNECE)**

**Question 3:**

Are there case studies of proven technology solutions to support sustainability in the production and use of chemicals in supply chains?

**Resources/Information for the Discussion:**

Provide any useful resources for Q3

- Harnessing the potential of blockchain technology for due diligence and sustainability in cotton value chains, Policy brief (2021)
- White Paper on Blockchain in Trade Facilitation (2020)

We encourage you to think about the poll questions before the discussion so you can contribute with your responses:

**Poll 1:** Which technologies can support traceability of chemicals and chemical management? (Open-ended question)

**Poll 2:** What are the main challenges to adopting technology solutions for traceability? (Select all that apply)
- Cost
- Security of information
- Standardization
- Infrastructure
- Other (please specify)
### Instructions for joining this discussion on the set date:

This discussion will be held in *Cisco WebEx*.

- Please register for this discussion by clicking on the following link: [https://unep.webex.com/unep/j.php%3FRGID=rc1b616e46e69a15cecd0d9bf42aa77d2](https://unep.webex.com/unep/j.php%3FRGID=rc1b616e46e69a15cecd0d9bf42aa77d2)
  a. Once you have clicked on the link, you will be asked to provide some details for registration purposes.
  b. Fill out your details and click “Register”.

- You will receive an email in the inbox of the email address you provided during registration with a calendar invite and a link to this discussion with the meeting ID and passcode.

- On the day of the discussion, click on the link in this email or on the button that says “Join now”.

- You will be redirected to the discussion.

If you have not received any communications for this discussion, make sure you are signed up for the Chemicals in Products Community of Practice or send an email to: uctcops@outlook.com

### Format of how the discussion will operate:

- To participate in this discussion, sign up at: [www.saicmknowledge.org/community](http://www.saicmknowledge.org/community)

- Should you require assistance or have questions, contact: uctcops@outlook.com

✓ This live discussion will be run WebEx in the chat section on the set day. Members will introduce themselves upon arrival into the chat room.

✓ The discussion presenter will briefly present a verbal introduction.

✓ Three questions will be posted during the 1 ½ hour discussion for 20 minutes discussion. The presenter/s will address comments in the chat section of WebEx and all are encouraged to engage.

✓ All are welcome to join the discussion which will be held in English. Feel free to write in another language if you are struggling with English and members will assist where possible.

---

This activity is supported by 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).*