

## Using a Value Chain Approach to Reduce CoCs

Chemicals of concern (CoCs) contained in everyday products can have harmful impacts on human health and the environment. While chemical-related impacts can often occur during a product's use or end-of-life, decisions influencing product ingredients are taken further upstream of the value chain. Action to address CoCs in products thus need to consider the *entire* value chain and impactful interventions need to be made at upstream stages to protect human health and the environment from chemical pollution. UNEP is working on guidance, tools and national pilot projects to support the building, electronics and toy sectors with this task as part of the work on component 2 of the GEF-funded project 'Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under SAICM'. The tools and guidance developed aim to accelerate the adoption of measures by governments and private sector value chains to track and control CoCs in supply chains of the three target sectors.

### KEY TOOLS AND GUIDANCE



**SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS:** Companies along the entire product value chain play a key role in addressing CoCs in products, e.g. through product design, material ingredient selection, production processes, or choices in portfolios for retail. The UNEP eco-innovation approach helps especially SMEs in developing countries to develop and diversify sustainable business models that reduce (chemical) impacts of product portfolios and along the value chain. USEtox-based tools can support toxicity screening of individual product ingredient chemicals (e.g. plasticizers in toys).



**PROCUREMENT & FINANCE:** Through their sustainable public procurement strategies, government entities can nudge market demand and drive innovation. With targeted financial products, the banking and finance sector can furthermore increase mobilization of capital to advance development and market uptake of solutions for better management and phasing out of CoCs in products.

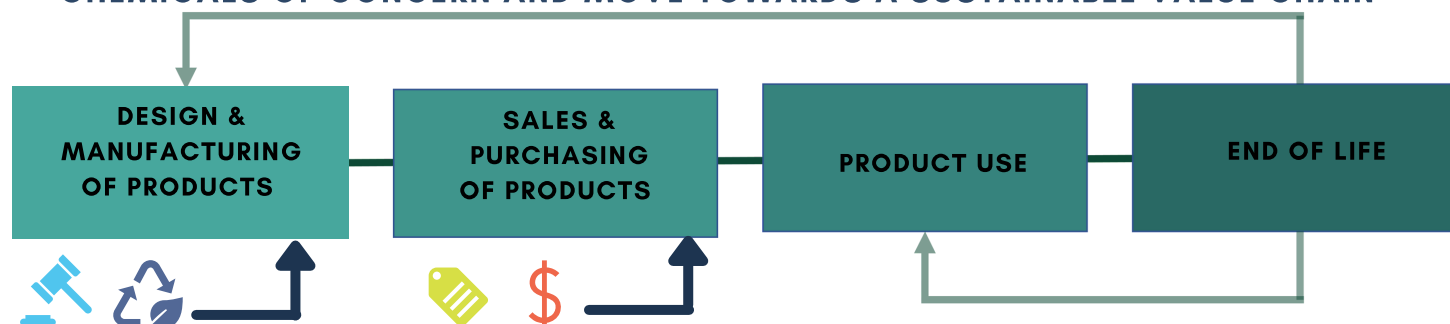


**STRENGTHENING REGULATION:** Regulatory requirements are strong drivers for better management and of CoCs and innovation supporting their phasing-out. Reviews of existing policy instruments and targeted recommendations can increase regulatory ambition and help policymakers to take action on chemicals in products for the protection of human health and the environment.



**ECO-LABELS:** Traceability and transparency are critical elements for better managing and phasing out CoCs in products. Eco-labels can increase transparency for consumers, and support businesses in measuring, improving and communicating the (chemical) sustainability performance of their products. For governments, eco-labels can encourage the behavioural change of producers and consumers towards long-term sustainability.

### UPSTREAM ENTRY POINTS USING UNEP TOOLS AND GUIDANCE PRODUCTS TO ADDRESS CHEMICALS OF CONCERN AND MOVE TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAIN



# THE BUILDING SECTOR

**Application of UNEP's Tools & Guidance to Reduce CoCs in the Buildings Sector**

## PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND RESOURCES

- [Review of CoCs in the building products sector](#)
- Creation of case-studies on potential alternatives to CoCs in building products

## KEY TOOLS AND GUIDANCE



Creation of a sector-specific supplement to UNEP's eco-innovation manual



Development of USEtox-based tool to screen toxicity of chemicals in building products



Creation of global guidance for sustainable public procurement



Addition of a module on green mortgages to UNEP FI's Environmental and Social Risk Analysis Training Programme

## APPLICATION IN SRI LANKA



Development of a green mortgages guide for the banking sector



Support to technical intermediaries and industry in application of the USEtox-based screening tool



Development of CoC-related criteria to be integrated into the Green Building Council operations and certification schemes



Technical assistance to building sector companies on eco-innovation, with a view to meeting new eco-labelling and green buildings certification requirements

# THE ELECTRONICS SECTOR

Application of UNEP's Tools & Guidance to Reduce CoCs in the Electronics Sector

## PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



UNIVERSIDAD  
EL BOSQUE



Local Governments for Sustainability



United Nations Institute  
for Training and Research



## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND RESOURCES



Development of list of regulatory frameworks



Review and recommendations of eco-labelling initiatives considering CoCs



Review of regulatory approaches for CoCs in electronics

Development of regional circularity studies in Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean

## KEY TOOLS AND GUIDANCE



Development of policy recommendations to strengthen regulatory action on CoCs



Creation of a sector-specific supplement to UNEP's eco-innovation manual



Creation of global guidance for sustainable public procurement

## APPLICATION IN COLOMBIA



Piloting and adaptation of the global guidance for sustainable public procurement



Review of eco-labels and recommendations to address CoCs



Technical assistance to electronics sector companies on eco-innovation, with a view to prepare companies to meet new SPP and eco-labelling requirements

# THE TOYS SECTOR

Application of UNEP's Tools & Guidance to Reduce CoCs in the Toys Sector

## PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



BASEL CONVENTION



**USEtox®**

## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND RESOURCES



[Review of regulatory requirements for CoCs in toys in China](#)



[Review of regulatory requirements for CoCs in toys in low- and middle-income countries importing toys from China](#)

## KEY TOOLS AND GUIDANCE



Creation of a toolkit to support sector on chemicals management and chemicals-related regulatory compliance



Development of USEtox-based tool to screen toxicity of chemicals in toys

## APPLICATION IN CHINA

- Training of toy value chain actors in application of USEtox-based screening tool and chemicals management toolkit in China
- Development of booklet and video to raise awareness and support better management of CoC in the toy sector