

PRODUCT SAFETY LEADERSHIP: MAKING A LASTING IMPROVEMENT



Product Safety Leadership

We are the first chemical company to make non-technical language summaries of our product safety assessments available to the public on www.dowproductsafety.com. The assessments cover topics such as basic hazards, use, risk and risk management. We will complete evaluations, with third party process verification, on high priority products by 2010 and for all products by 2015.

Dow's Position Statement

As a world leader in chemistry, Dow takes very seriously its responsibility for managing the products it manufactures. Dow and its people are committed to ensure that our products are manufactured, stored, transported, used, disposed of and recycled in a manner that shows high regard for human health, safety and environmental stewardship.

External Overview

The chemical industry continues to face challenging external perceptions that the production and use of its products are causing widespread damage to public health and to the environment. The progress our industry has made through voluntary initiatives, such as Responsible Care®, High Production Volume test programs or the Long-Range Research Initiative, has received various degrees of respect and credibility from external organizations. Some U.S. groups are calling for stricter legislation such as that embodied in the European Union Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (EU REACH) legislation.

Fundamental to assessing product safety is having adequate knowledge of the intrinsic hazard properties of the product and of the potential for human or ecological exposures throughout the product life cycle. Dow has a long-standing commitment to developing such knowledge and using it to reduce or eliminate risks.



Dow's History in the Area

Our product stewardship program formally began in 1972 and gained solid acceptance in 1992 when the American Chemistry Council (ACC) approved the product stewardship code of Responsible Care®. Since then, the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) has developed the Global Chemical Management policies and a new Global Product Strategy. Dow has taken a leadership role in shaping both. New policies and regulations will continue to be implemented for the foreseeable future.

Dow's Actions and Commitments

By 2015, Dow will make publicly accessible safety assessments for its products globally and, in doing so, will address relevant gaps in hazard and exposure information. Dow will continue to take appropriate action based on the assessments to protect human health and the environment throughout the life cycle.

- Dow will complete its work on high priority products by 2010.
- For its remaining products, Dow will complete its work by 2015.
- Dow will update safety assessments as new information becomes available.
- Dow is committed to publicly sharing its view on the principles on which product safety legislation or regulation should be based.
- Dow will seek external evaluation of the robustness of its product safety assessment processes, including its processes for making product stewardship decisions, and will be responsive to the feedback received.

Dow will make its product safety assessments accessible to the public by providing a summary on the Internet, with detailed information links. Summaries will be written in non-technical language and will cover topics such as basic hazards, risks and risk management.

- Dow will make its product safety assessments accessible to the public by providing a summary on www.dowproductsafety.com, with detailed information links.
- A product safety assessment is defined as a brief non-technical summary of basic hazard, risk and risk management information intended to be read by an informed, but not necessarily technically trained, reader. Targeted audiences include educators, community leaders, and environmental journalists, among others.
- Dow will close gaps in hazard and exposure information.
- Dow will conduct product risk characterizations for all of its saleable products globally and initiate any risk management, including evaluation of potential for human exposure, throughout the life cycle of Dow products.

We believe that the Product Safety Leadership Goal strongly aligns with external events shaping public policy. It will enable Dow to manage its own destiny, and will further position us as the product stewardship leader in our industry.

- Dow has an opportunity to further differentiate itself as a product stewardship leader in our industry and to increase public confidence in our products.
- In pursuit of this goal, our basic approach to product stewardship will not change.
- We do expect our businesses, as a part of their continuous improvement efforts, to try to learn more about upstream and downstream opportunities for human and environmental exposure and to make reasonable efforts through commercial relationships to convince our value chain partners to take responsible action, as appropriate, to control exposures and reduce risk.
- In some cases, the lack of adequate downstream use and/or exposure information may be identified as a gap that we need to fill as part of the Product Safety Leadership Goal.
- Public expectations for industry behavior will continue to grow. This is especially true of the product stewardship performance of chemical companies.
- During the next 10 years, we expect that there will be increasing pressure on Dow and others in our industry to know more and more about the uses and ultimate fate of our products and the potential human and environmental exposures, and to ensure these uses and exposures are acceptable from a health and environmental perspective.
- Dow businesses will be expected to lead in their industry sectors in making such improvements.

Conclusion

As a world leader in chemistry, Dow is taking action to ensure that we are good stewards of our products, the environment and the human condition. We are committed to preserving the world in which we live and to protecting the health of our families, friends and neighbors. We are a leader in our industry by taking appropriate action to protect human health and the environment throughout the life cycle.

For More Information

To learn more about Dow's position on product safety, visit <http://www.dowproductsafety.com>.

