

Chemicals in articles

- possible ways forward

Jan Hammar
Deputy Director General



A huge number of articles with a rapid turnover rate

- Clothing
 - Toys
 - Electronics
- t-shirt (cotton): 3 kg chemicals / kg cotton
- Toys 40 000 tonnes: ~30 kg per child and year
- Electronics, rapid technical development
-  **Increased exposure**

Chemicals in articles are not adequately covered by the EU legislation

- Consumers are exposed to hazardous substances in articles.
- Consumers are exposed to substances with unknown or partly unknown hazardous properties.
- Information on toxic substances in articles is not readily available.
- More consideration should be taken to the fact that children are more susceptible
- Scientific uncertainty: hormone disruptors, combination effects, nanomaterials.

So what can be done about the legislation?

- Additional information requirements regarding hazardous properties in REACH.
- A duty to communicate information on hazardous substances in articles, e.g. in REACH
- Human reproduction and children: increased level of protection, e.g. in REACH, Toy safety directive.
- Additional hazardous substances should be limited in articles, e.g. REACH, RoHS and other products regulations.
- A quicker adaptation to scientific developments, e.g. hormone disruptors, combination effects and nano, e.g. REACH

So what more can be done?

- Increased substitution of hazardous substances in articles.
 - All actors in the supply chain should be working towards progressively replacing hazardous substances in articles if there are suitable alternative substances or technologies.
- Increased cooperation between authorities in MS to ensure effective supervision of hazardous substances in articles.



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Kemikalieinspektionen
Swedish Chemicals Agency