**OBJECTIVES**

HERA wants to illustrate that partnership between supplier and formulator companies and their respective groups can deliver validated safety information on the ingredients of household cleaning products by developing ONE common risk assessment per substance.

And by doing so, HERA supports a risk-based approach to Chemicals Legislation in the European Union.

**BACKGROUND**

Responding to an increasing demand from society for industry to be more transparent in sharing its data and decisions, the producers of household cleaning products, represented by A.I.S.E. (International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products) and the suppliers of the raw materials to produce these products, represented by Cefic (European Chemical Industry Council) launched the HERA Project in 1999.

**PRINCIPLES**

- Partnership between supplier and formulator companies and their representative groups.
- Development of open dialogue with stakeholders.
- Transparency in all its activities.
- No preconception of the outcome of risk assessments.
- Commitment to a solid science-based approach.
- Avoidance of unnecessary animal testing.

**HERA RISK ASSESSMENT CONCEPT**

- **Hazard and risk**
  - Hazard = intrinsic ability to cause adverse effect.
  - Risk = the probability that such effects will occur.
  - HERA identifies on ingredients of household cleaning products:
    - Potential environmental effects
    - Probable uses and discharges
    - Potential effects on human health
  - A risk assessment approach takes into account BOTH the hazard and the probability to be exposed to it.
  - In addition, an External Advisory Panel, reviews the draft risk assessments.
  - HERA contributes to risk management decisions being taken by companies.

**HERA AND REACH**

A.I.S.E. and Cefic believe HERA is compatible with the EU Chemicals Policy, as the following topics coincide:

- Industry taking responsibility for the safe use of chemicals
- Partnership between manufacturers and downstream-users
- Risk-based approach
- Grouping of substances
- Response to challenges on existing substances
- International integration.

**ADRESSING RISK COMMUNICATION**

Having set the goal of providing useful and transparent information on risk assessments, HERA contributes to overcoming the communication challenge «more and better communication on chemicals to consumers» by developing plain language summaries of its risk assessments.

Useful consumer insights and stakeholder input in the communication project were obtained in a Qualitative Market Research (Brussels, October 2003) and a European Stakeholder Workshop (Brussels, November 2003). HERA has developed «CLEAN HOUSE, SAFE HOME», aiming at delivering transparency and information about risk and safety to consumers.
Regulators and the general public rightly demand greater transparency of information on the potential risks posed by ingredients of products used in the home. HERA brings together producers of chemicals and formulators of finished products to provide such data.

**HERA PHASES 1, 2 AND 3**

- The first phase (1999 onwards) aimed at developing the methodology for the HERA risk assessments and began working on example substances.
- During the second phase (2003 onwards), the HERA teams have been applying this methodology to a range of substances and subsequently, have produced a whole series of risk assessments.
- A third phase (2004 onwards) was initiated in which HERA aims to finalise its work. By complementing the list of substances, it is expected that all important ranges of chemical ingredients and all exposure scenarios will be covered.

**PROGRESS**

In total, HERA will assess approximately 250 CAS (*) numbers and cover over 30 chemical ingredient families. Those represent the great majority of ingredients used in household cleaning products in Europe.

**STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION**

Regular stakeholder consultations including annual workshops are being organised, in which participants are encouraged to contribute to HERA’s ongoing development. Previous consultations included topics such as the scientific approach of HERA, its political relevance and more recently, a first attempt to communicate the outcome of its risk assessments in a consumer-friendly format. HERA’s stakeholders are, among others: EU authorities, Member States, NGOs, Academia, Industry and the consumer himself.

**WHERE HAS HERA CONTRIBUTED MOST?**

- How to work together in consortia
- How to partner between Suppliers and Users of chemicals
- How to gather and deal with data from companies
- How to protect company data information while sharing results
- How to run risk assessment in a timely fashion
- How to practice «OSOR»
- How to group chemicals for safety evaluation
- How to transition from R-A’s to Risk Management
- How to involve stakeholders in the R-A process
- How to communicate risk to different audiences

A joint European initiative between A.I.S.E. and Cefic on Human and Environmental Risk Assessment

AISE

Conseil Européen de l’Industrie Chimique

www.aisc-net.org www.cefic.org

www.heraproject.com