THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHEMICAL ASSOCIATIONS

# Responsible Care® Global Charter

**Responsible Care** is the global chemical industry's unifying commitment to the safe management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, while promoting their role in improving quality of life and contributing to sustainable development.

As a signatory to the Responsible Care Global Charter my company will actively strengthen the Responsible Care initiative worldwide and is committed to:

- A Corporate Leadership Culture that proactively supports safe chemicals management through the global Responsible Care initiative
- Safeguarding People and the Environment by continuously improving our environmental, health and safety performance; the security of our facilities, processes and technologies; and by driving continuous improvement in chemical product safety and stewardship throughout the supply chain
- Strengthening Chemicals Management Systems by participating in the development and implementation of lifecycle-oriented, sound-science and risk-based chemical safety legislation and best practices
- Influencing Business Partners to promote the safe management of chemicals within their own operations
- Engaging Stakeholders, understanding and responding to their concerns and expectations for safer operations and products and communicating openly on our performance and products
- 6 Contributing to Sustainability through improved performance, expanded economic opportunities and the development of innovative technologies and other solutions to societal challenges

ECO-QIL-TRAtamento de Aguas Pontanimons, S.A.

- /

02. JANEIRO. 2017

**CEO Signature** 

Date



Approved by the ICCA Board of Directors, May 29, 2014



# Your Guide to

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHEMICAL ASSOCIATIONS

# Responsible Care

is a voluntary commitment by the global chemical industry to drive continuous improvement and achieve excellence in environmental, health and safety and security performance. It achieves this goal by meeting and exceeding legislative and regulatory requirements and by adopting collaborative approaches across the industry and with government and other stakeholders.

This commitment is further backed by the activities of National Responsible Care programmes, which include systematic procedures to verify implementation of the Responsible Care elements.

Responsible Care is a commitment to an ethic of safe chemicals management and performance excellence in the chemical industry. It enhances public confidence and trust in the industry's dedication to safely manage chemicals throughout their lifecycle, while ensuring that chemistry contributes to improving living standards, enhancing our quality of life and protecting the environment.

Effective and transparent engagement with our industry's stakeholders is a cornerstone of Responsible Care and plays an important role in understanding and meeting society's expectations.

Responsible Care was launched in 1985 in Canada to address challenges and stakeholder expectations for the chemical industry. Today, Responsible Care is practiced by the chemical industry in over 60 countries participating in the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA).

First published in 2005, our Responsible Care Global Charter was updated in 2014 to respond effectively to current stakeholder expectations, as well as the opportunities and challenges facing the global chemical industry.





Signatories to the Responsible Care® Global Charter commit to actively strengthen Responsible Care worldwide by dedicating their company, people, technologies and business practices to the Charter's Six Elements:



# A Corporate Leadership

## Safeguarding People and the Environment

supports safe chemicals Culture that proactively

management through

the global Responsible

Care initiative.

Charter signatories commit

to provide leadership

and resources to:

◆ Implement Responsible

company manufactures

or sells products;

practices wherever the

Care principles and

and safety performance safety and stewardship by driving continuous environmental, health and technologies and and security of our facilities, processes chemical product improvement in by continuously throughout the improving the supply chain.

# Charter signatories commit to:

public and the environment employees, contractors, the procedures to safeguard principles, policies and ◆ Implement corporate

> Care in other regions where the company has significant

expansion of Responsible

◆ Contribute to the further

company has significant

business activities!;

programmes where the

→ Participate in national

security of the company's facilities and products. respect to workplace public safety, process performance and the Strive for continuous

> → Promote industry and public awareness of

Responsible Care:

business activities;

to enable other parties to → Provide practical support

successfully implement

Responsible Care.

and share best practices

# Strengthening

# Chemicals

Management Systems and implementation of lifecycle-oriented by participating in and best practices. science- and riskthe development safety legislation based chemical

Charter signatories commit to:

their own operations;

of chemicals within

Charter signatories commit expectations of the ICCA Global Product Strategy to managing the safety in accordance with the of chemical products (GPS), including:

◆ Collaborate with chemical users on maintaining and

along the value chain;

improving processes for

the safe and effective

uses of chemicals;

assistance to enable safe

Provide information and

stewardship processes

product safety and and management;

improvement in → Drive continual

> policies, regulations and of effective, risk-based → Active collaboration and implementation in the development

performance standards;

◆ Champion Responsible Care

- capacity building initiatives management of chemicals → Active participation in to advance the safe across the globe;
- and international education as the Globally Harmonised and research that advances and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and the Long-range ◆ Contributions to national safety of chemicals, such Research Initiative (LRI), System of Classification understanding of the



# Influencing Business

the safe management

Partners to promote

## Engaging Stakeholders. and responding to understanding

their concerns and

expectations for

safer operations

## nnovative technologies mproved performance and other solutions to Sustainability through expanded economic the development of societal challenges. opportunities and Contributing to

Global Charter signatories

- ◆ Implement corporate ◆ Engage stakeholders to understand and respond chemical manufacturing and product safety; commit to:
- company performance and product safety information; → Provide stakeholders with
- information to national and international Responsible industry's stakeholders. ♣ Provide performance to facilitate effective Care organizations dialogue with the

# Global Charter signatories

communicating openly

and products and

on our performance

and products.

- resources including energy, greenhouse gas emissions continuous improvement raw materials and water; and the efficient use of principles, policies and in waste management,
- ◆ Promote the importance sustainable development;
- which confirm Responsible sustainable development Care as a contributor to → Participate in initiatives others to make their to sustainability.

commutments in the Global Charter requires the fullest participation of leading chemical company of Responsible Care and fulfillment of related

Copyright - This publication and its content are subject to the copyright® of ICCA. Reproduction is authorized, except for commercial purposes, provided that the source is mentioned and acknowledged. ICCA claims no copyright on any official document or in the public domain. Nothing in this document shall be construed as conferring any license or right to any copyright of any third party material contained in this document. www.icca-chem.org

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHEMICAL ASSOCIATIONS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RESPONSIBLE CARE® GLOBAL CHARTER

## **JULY 2014**

What is the Responsible Care Global Charter, and why was it developed?

Answer: The Responsible Care Global Charter is an agreement achieved among leading chemical companies and federations that form the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) to create a common global vision for Responsible Care and to improve the environmental, health and safety performance of chemical producers in the more than 60 nations that currently implement the initiative. The Charter addresses ongoing stakeholder expectations, responds to evolving challenges and enables the industry to speak with a common voice on the global commitments it has made.

What are the specific objectives of the Charter?

Answer: The Charter articulates a set of six commitments for signatory companies. They include: Corporate Leadership Culture; Safeguarding People and the Environment; Strengthening Chemicals Management Systems; Influencing Business Partners; Engaging Stakeholders; and Contributing to Sustainability. By fulfilling these commitments worldwide, chemical companies demonstrate their leadership of the Responsible Care ethic and its goals of continuous performance improvement and responsiveness to the public.

What is the difference between the original (2006) version of the Charter and this new (2014) version?

The 2006 version of the Responsible Care Global Charter was intended to address both trade association and individual company roles in supporting Responsible Care. By blurring the lines between trade association responsibilities and those of individual companies, stakeholders, both internal and external, found it difficult to determine accountabilities and assess progress for certain aspects of the original Charter. ICCA has revised the Charter and it specifically focuses on the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of global chemical companies in support of Responsible Care. Additionally, the revised Charter specifically focuses on key aspects of company operations including process safety and security. These companies are expected to implement Responsible Care in their own organizations and lead implementation efforts worldwide consistent with the Charter elements.

What is expected of a signatory company?

Answer: Signing the Charter is a demonstration of CEO-level commitment to Responsible Care. A CEO's signature represents support for Responsible Care principles and practices worldwide across all significant business activities of the chemical company.

How will the Charter change my existing Responsible Care® commitments if I am a global chemical company?

Answer: There are no immediate changes to existing Responsible Care commitments. The Charter and its six elements are an ongoing pledge and are consistent with current ICCA policies and Responsible Care program elements found in the ICCA Responsible Care Fundamental Features. Charter signatories commit to conducting internal assessments of their practices worldwide and to implement Responsible Care as it is practiced in the countries where they participate in the program.

What will be the process for addressing the chemicals management aspects of the Charter?

Answer: The Charter commits signatories to manage products consistent with ICCA's Global Product Strategy (GPS) which was also adopted by ICCA in 2006. Under GPS, companies implement risk-based chemicals management systems and policies and commit to sharing information on the safety of products with their commercial partners and the general public. Each ICCA federation has developed a GPS implementation plan for its member companies which include signatories to the Global Charter.

What specific actions will be taken to integrate Responsible Care with value chain activities?

Answer: Individual companies are expected to undertake specific actions to extend Responsible Care principles and practices including safe management of chemicals through the value chain. These activities will be developed in the context of each company's value chain and will recognize the appropriate and distinctive needs of companies to improve performance and safe management of chemicals across the value chain. Implementation of improvement opportunities should be consistent with ICCA's Global Product Strategy and national Responsible Care program requirements.

How does the Global Charter address process safety management issues? How does the Charter address security management issues?

Answer: The Charter commits signatories to "Safeguard People and the Environment" by continuously improving environment, health and safety performance. This commitment to performance improvement extends to workplace operations, both occupational and process safety, and the security of company facilities and products in the value chain.

How is sustainable development or sustainability addressed in the Global Charter? What are the next steps that will be taken to demonstrate the industry's contribution to sustainable development?

Answer: Sustainable development consists of a set of principles, policies and practices aimed at achieving economic, environmental and societal progress that benefits future generations without compromising the needs of the present generation. The ICCA has actively participated in a dialogue on this topic for many years and achieved acceptance from the United Nations and other stakeholders that Responsible Care is a means through which the chemical industry will contribute to sustainable development. The Charter advances this commitment through the continuation of practical steps that improve performance in the areas of greenhouse gas emissions and the efficient use of resources including energy, raw materials and water; expanding economic opportunities; and developing solutions to societal challenges. For additional information on sustainable development, see ICCA's publication "Responsible Care's Contribution to Sustainable Development," dated June 2010.

When will the revised Charter become a public document?

Answer: ICCA will announce the revised Charter in June 2015 to coincide with the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) ICCM-4 event. It will be available on ICCA's website (<a href="www.icca-chem.org">www.icca-chem.org</a>) as well as those of its member federations.

Who is expected to sign the Charter, and what are the legal and Responsible Care® implications for the signatories?

Answer: CEOs of global chemical companies (those operating in more than one country) that belong to ICCA and/or ICCA-affiliated trade associations will be asked to sign the Charter at its headquarters location. Only one signed copy of the Charter will be requested from each global company. The global CEO will sign on behalf of the worldwide chemical business operations and submit its declaration letter to the trade association in the country where the company is headquartered. The associations will manage this process and seek CEO signatures. The names of CEOs signing the Charter will be made public as part of ICCA's plan to publicly release the Charter. The Charter establishes no new legal or Responsible Care requirements for the company.

What are the requirements for charter signatories with respect to participation in local associations?

The Charter's Corporate Leadership Culture element calls on signatories to provide leadership and resources to "participate in national Responsible Care programs where the company has significant business activities." ICCA does not define "significant business activities" for signatories. Each company must determine for itself what level of activity necessitates participation in a local Responsible Care program. Regardless of whether the signatory participates in a local program, the Charter commits the company to "implement Responsible Care principles and practices wherever the company manufactures or sells products."

How can I stay informed about ongoing Charter-related activities?

Answer: ICCA's Responsible Care Leadership Group, and national associations, will periodically update their membership and all Responsible Care professionals on Charter activities. In addition, the ICCA's Responsible Care web site will provide ongoing updates of activities related to Charter implementation. The website already provides associations and companies a wealth of information on the countries that participate in Responsible Care, the core elements of their programs and contact information.

Are there major differences in Responsible Care implementation requirements in various countries? Does the Charter eliminate the ability for Responsible Care programs around the world to be tailored to regional needs?

Answer: Responsible Care has evolved as a global initiative over nearly three decades. There are differing requirements for Responsible Care participation and performance within national associations, but each association must conform to a set of eight Fundamental Features established by ICCA. The Charter reinforces commitments to these Fundamental Features by encouraging participation in national Responsible Care programs wherever companies have significant business activities. The Charter does not alter the Fundamental Features nor diminish local flexibility in developing a Responsible Care program in order to account for the distinctive aspects of national laws and cultures and differing business needs.