



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Meeting the Challenges of Global Chemical Regulations

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Forestry Commission  
England



Environment  
Agency



# Objectives of today



Department for  
International Trade



Public Health  
England



- Increase awareness and understanding of worldwide regulatory regimes and guidelines for chemical hazard and human and environmental risk assessment across markets.
- To discuss principles that apply not only to chemicals and pesticides but other areas such as food-related substances, biocides and consumer products.
- Bring UK government risk assessors, risk managers and policy makers together informally with regulatory specialists and industry regulatory professionals from the International arena.

# UK Strategy for chemicals





# What's happening with EU Exit?



- UK leaves the EU end March 2019 with 'no deal'
- or
- If there is UK/EU agreement on the Withdrawal Agreement, the UK leaves the EU end March 2019 and enters an implementation period (to Dec 2020)

A photograph of several stacked shipping containers in various colors (blue, orange, green, white) in a port or warehouse setting.

**The implementation period will give people and businesses in the UK and across the EU the time they need to prepare for the future partnership.**

Department for Exiting the European Union

# At the end of the implementation period....

From Jan 2021 we will either:

- have a successful negotiated outcome on a Future Economic Partnership with EU



Or

- leave the EU with 'no deal'



# An implementation period would allow time to negotiate the future economic partnership



- No change for UK / EU business
- EU legislation continues to apply in the UK subject to the terms set out in the Withdrawal Agreement
- UK would no longer be able to act as a “lead authority” in regulatory regimes
- Limited UK Government participation in EU institutions, agencies and bodies
- No vote for UK in decision making.

# “No Deal” planning

In the event of a no deal, the UK would:

- Ensure UK legislation replaces EU legislation
- Bring REACH into UK law, while making technical changes that would need to be made because the UK has left the EU
- Establish a UK regulatory framework and build domestic capacity to deliver the functions currently performed by ECHA
- In this scenario we would work with the consent of the devolved administrations in areas of devolved competence.



# What will happen internationally?

## Implementation Period

- the UK would work closely with the EU to understand its position, influence where possible, and support it as part of our duty of sincere cooperation

## No deal

- the UK will be able to make its own position, intervene in its own right at the international meetings such as multilateral environment agreements , including the forthcoming Triple COP on BRS (Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm)



*“By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment”*

## Sustainable Development Goals – SDG 12.4

### Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM):

- The ‘beyond 2020’ goals will be negotiated at a series of meetings over the coming years and adopted at the fifth meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals in October 2020 in Bonn
- The intersessional process for SAICM aims to set out potentially new governance, goals, targets and aspirations of the framework beyond 2020

# OECD bodies, working groups and selected subsidiary expert groups

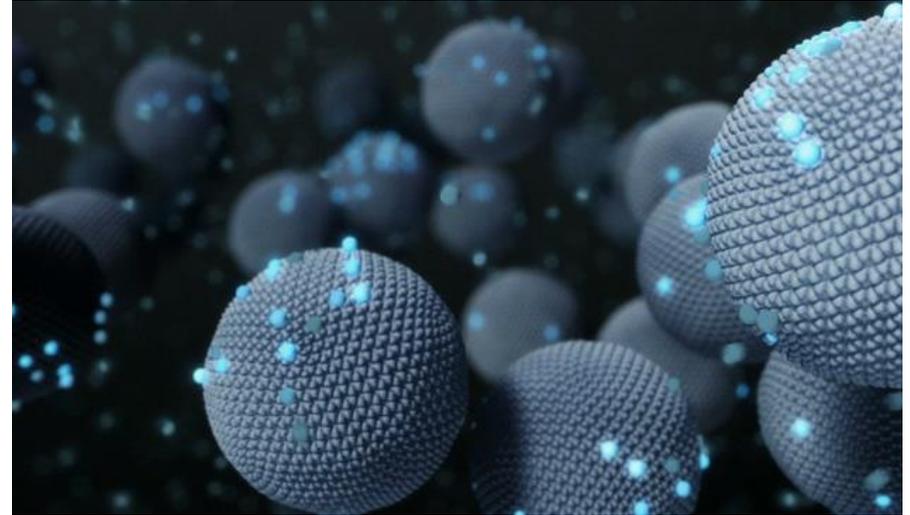
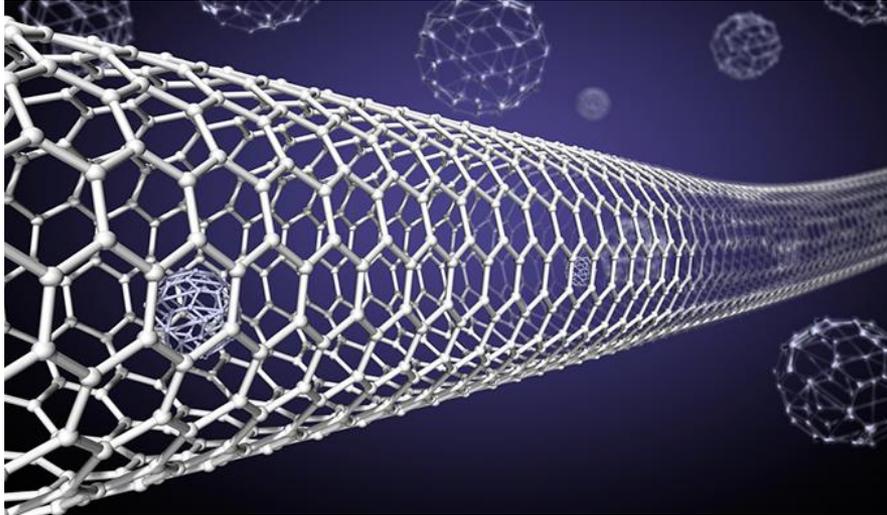
- International co-operation on health and environmental safety-related aspects of hazardous chemicals including nanomaterials.
- Achieved through the development of test guidelines and guidance documents.
- Defra has increased engagement and is active both on the national test guideline programme and nanomaterials work group



# 20<sup>th</sup> UK:Japan Workshop – Cambridge



## Questions?



*“Leaving the EU gives us the opportunity to put the environment at the heart of policy making, while ensuring vital protections for our landscapes, wildlife and natural assets are not only maintained but enhanced.”*

*Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, November 2017*

*Secretary of State for the Environment*