

# Your Guide to

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHEMICAL ASSOCIATIONS

# Responsible Care<sup>®</sup> Global Charter

## 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:**

**1**

**A Corporate Leadership Culture** that proactively supports safe chemicals management through the global Responsible Care initiative.

*Charter signatories commit to provide leadership and resources to:*

- Implement Responsible Care principles and practices wherever the company manufactures or sells products;
- Participate in national Responsible Care programmes where the company has significant business activities<sup>1</sup>;
- Contribute to the further expansion of Responsible Care in other regions where the company has significant business activities;
- Promote industry and public awareness of Responsible Care;
- Provide practical support and share best practices to enable other parties to successfully implement Responsible Care.

<sup>1</sup>The effective implementation and credibility of Responsible Care and fulfillment of related commitments in the Global Charter requires the fullest participation of leading chemical companies, wherever they have significant business activities.

**2**

**Safeguarding People and the Environment**

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

*Charter signatories commit to:*

- Implement corporate principles, policies and procedures to safeguard employees, contractors, the public and the environment;
- Strive for continuous improvement with respect to workplace health and safety, public safety, process safety, environmental performance and the security of the company's facilities and products.

**3**

**Strengthening Chemicals Management Systems**

by participating in the development and implementation of lifecycle-oriented, science- and risk-based chemical safety legislation and best practices.

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

- Active collaboration in the development and implementation of effective, risk-based chemicals management policies, regulations and performance standards;
- Active participation in capacity building initiatives to advance the safe management of chemicals across the globe;
- Contributions to national and international education and research that advances understanding of the safety of chemicals, such as the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and the Long-range Research Initiative (LRI).

**4**

**Influencing Business Partners**

to promote the safe management of chemicals within their own operations;

*Charter signatories commit to:*

- Drive continual improvement in product safety and stewardship processes and management;
- Provide information and assistance to enable safe chemicals management along the value chain;
- Collaborate with chemical users on maintaining and improving processes for the safe and effective uses of chemicals;
- Champion Responsible Care along the chemical industry value chain and encourage similar approaches in other industrial sectors.

**5**

**Engaging Stakeholders,**

understanding and responding to their concerns and expectations for safer operations and products and communicating openly on our performance and products.

*Global Charter signatories commit to:*

- Engage stakeholders to understand and respond to their concerns and expectations about chemical manufacturing and product safety;
- Provide stakeholders with company performance and product safety information;
- Provide performance information to national and international Responsible Care organizations to facilitate effective dialogue with the industry's stakeholders.

**6**

**Contributing to Sustainability**

through improved performance, expanded economic opportunities and the development of innovative technologies and other solutions to societal challenges.

*Global Charter signatories commit to:*

- Implement corporate principles, policies and processes to drive continuous improvement in waste management, greenhouse gas emissions and the efficient use of resources including energy, raw materials and water;
- Promote the importance of chemicals in improving quality of life and contributing to sustainable development;
- Participate in initiatives which confirm Responsible Care as a contributor to sustainable development and encourage others to make their own contributions to sustainability.