

RESPONSIBLE CARE[®] **GLOBAL CHARTER**



INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL OF
CHEMICAL
ASSOCIATIONS

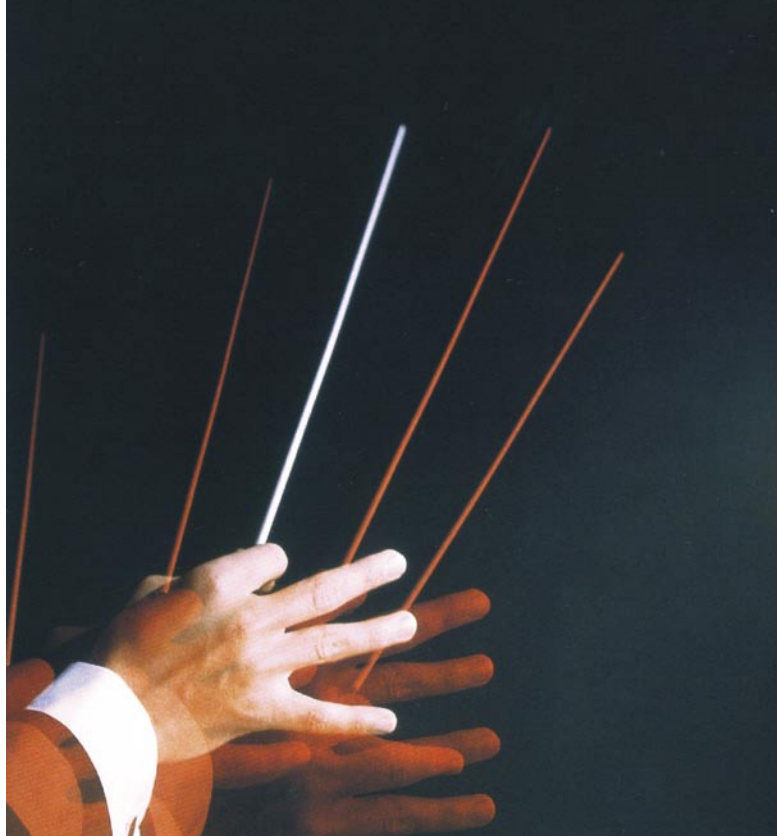


Responsible Care[®]

A Special Supplement Presented with

chemicalweek

GLOBAL CHARTER



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PETER ELVERDING
CHAIRMAN OF THE ICCA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE
MANAGING BOARD OF
ROYAL DSM



Welcome letter

I am delighted to introduce you to the chemical industry's Responsible Care Global Charter. This important document marks a renewal of our industry's commitment to continuous improvement in the environmental, health and safety performance of chemical producers around the world.

Fittingly, after two decades since the launch of Responsible Care in 1985, the Charter expands and extends the process of continuous improvement beyond manufacturing to other activities, especially those associated with the safe use and handling of our products along the value chain.

Thanks to Responsible Care, we have made considerable strides over the years in strengthening our dialogue

with a broad range of stakeholders at local, national and global level. This has improved our understanding of public concerns and been instrumental in helping guide our increased focus on chemicals management through Responsible Care's product stewardship activities.

The new Charter also addresses important societal issues including sustainable development and the need for the industry to work more closely and transparently with others than ever before. The Charter embodies an important agreement achieved among the members of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) to create a common global vision for Responsible Care

which has become increasingly important as more countries – currently 52 nations around the world – commit to our industry's ethic.

Whilst we take pride in what Responsible Care has helped us achieve, we know much remains to be done to address continuing changes in public expectations and growing concern about our products.

We regard the Charter as key to helping us, together with our business partners and other stakeholders, to set the chemical industry's agenda as a responsible part of today's society, and to fulfill its role of bringing real benefit and value to the global community. 🤝

Introduction



THE RESPONSIBLE CARE® GLOBAL CHARTER

Responsible Care is the global chemical industry's environmental, health and safety (EHS) initiative to drive continuous improvement in performance. It achieves this objective by meeting and going beyond legislative and regulatory compliance, and by adopting cooperative and voluntary initiatives with government and other stakeholders. Responsible Care is an ethic and a commitment that seeks to build confidence and trust in an industry that is essential to improving living standards and the quality of life.

The Responsible Care Global Charter arose from an examination of chemical industry practices and performance that has evolved since the mid-1980s, and was shaped by considering the recommendations of independent stakeholders (SustainAbility Survey published February 2004). The Charter goes beyond the original elements of Responsible Care. It focuses on new and important challenges facing the chemical industry and global society, including the growing public dialogue over sustainable develop-

ment, public health issues related to the use of chemical products, the need for greater industry transparency, and the opportunity to achieve greater harmonization and consistency among the national Responsible Care programmes currently implemented. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), through Responsible Care, will continue to undertake actions consistent with the environmental principles of the United Nations Global Compact.



Elements of the Global Charter

1. ADOPT GLOBAL RESPONSIBLE CARE CORE PRINCIPLES

A common set of commitments between companies and associations has been developed to harmonise the 52 national programmes

2. IMPLEMENT FUNDAMENTAL FEATURES OF NATIONAL RESPONSIBLE CARE PROGRAMMES

The 8 fundamental features, common to every national programme, remain unchanged

3. COMMIT TO ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Charter encourages the global chemical industry to make a strong contribution to sustainable development by implementing supportive initiatives

4. CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE AND REPORT PERFORMANCE

Continuous improvement in performance remains at the core of the initiative.

A range of new activities will be implemented to further help the drive of enhanced performance

5. ENHANCE THE MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICAL PRODUCTS WORLDWIDE – PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

The Charter identifies a number of commitments to strengthen product stewardship and the management of chemicals. These will be developed in conjunction with the ICCA's new Global Product Strategy

6. CHAMPION AND FACILITATE THE EXTENSION OF RESPONSIBLE CARE ALONG THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY'S VALUE CHAIN

Responsible Care will be promoted along the different value chains of the chemical industry

7. ACTIVELY SUPPORT NATIONAL AND LOCAL RESPONSIBLE CARE GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

There will be enhanced governance to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the collective implementation of the initiative

8. ADDRESS STAKEHOLDER EXPECTATIONS ABOUT CHEMICAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

Dialogue processes will be extended at local, national and global levels

9. PROVIDE APPROPRIATE RESOURCES TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT RESPONSIBLE CARE

Responsible Care companies are expected to lend support to their national programmes

1. ADOPT GLOBAL RESPONSIBLE CARE CORE PRINCIPLES.

The Global Responsible Care Core Principles commit companies and national associations to work together to:

- ❑ Continuously improve the environmental, health and safety knowledge and performance of technologies, processes and products over their life cycles so as to avoid harm to people and the environment.

- ❑ Use resources efficiently and minimise waste.

- ❑ Report openly on performance, achievements and shortcomings.

- ❑ Listen, engage and work with people to understand and address their concerns and expectations.

- ❑ Cooperate with governments and organisations in the development and

implementation of effective regulations and standards, and to meet or go beyond them.

- ❑ Provide help and advice to foster the responsible management of chemicals by all those who manage and use them along the product chain.



Fundamental Features

2. IMPLEMENT FUNDAMENTAL FEATURES OF NATIONAL RESPONSIBLE CARE PROGRAMMES.

Each national chemical association establishes and manages its own national Responsible Care programme based on a set of eight common fundamental features. They are:

- ❑ Establish and implement a set of Guiding Principles that member companies sign.

- ❑ Adopt a title and logo that are consistent with Responsible Care.

- ❑ Implement management practices through a series of systems, codes, poli-

cies or guidance documents to assist companies to achieve better performance.

- ❑ Develop a set of performance indicators against which improvements can be measured.

- ❑ Communicate with interested parties inside and outside the membership.

- ❑ Share best practices through information networks.

- ❑ Encourage all association member companies to commit to and participate

in Responsible Care.

- ❑ Introduce and apply systematic procedures to verify the implementation of the measurable elements of Responsible Care by member companies.

Industry leaders support the national associations in the fulfillment of these fundamental features.

The Charter defines specific commitments consistent with the fundamental features.



Core Principles

Responsible Care has evolved as a global initiative over two decades. As a result, there are differing requirements for Responsible Care participation and performance within national associations. The Charter now establishes a set of core global commitments and processes, while preserving implementation flexibility to account for the distinctive aspects of national laws and cultures and differing business needs within the 52 implementing nations.

The Charter establishes a framework for company and association activities in the future, and defines specific commitments consistent with the fundamental features. The effort recognizes that the timetable for implementation will vary country by country. Over the next 6-12 months, individual associations will discuss with their members what changes, if any, need to be made to national programmes based on the availability of resources.

ICCA's Responsible Care Leadership Group will administer a Charter implementation process over the next several years that will develop tools and guidance materials to assist companies and associations in such areas as management systems, product stewardship, and sustainable development. ICCA will also assist the national associations through benchmarking and other forms of information sharing, workshops and compilation of best practices to promote consistency in Charter implementation.

Andrew Liveris, chairman-elect, president and CEO, Dow Chemical

Leadership for the Global Charter starts right at the top, with each CEO who signs a letter of commitment. By signing, each CEO is saying, my company supports and commits to extending and building on Responsible Care - by incorporating new elements such as sustainable development, effective chemical risk management, and greater industry transparency.

The public expects us to continuously improve, and voluntary initiatives are an important way for us to do that. Voluntary initiatives are complementary to laws and regulations, and in some cases can be much more effective than a regulatory approach. Voluntary initiatives can accom-

plish a great deal in shorter periods of time and are less bureaucratic. The high production volume (HPV) testing challenge, for example, produced more publicly available hazard information on chemicals in six years than was produced in the previous 40 years under government mandated programmes. Our industry has done a lot so far through our voluntary initiatives, and we intend to do more.

It's important that the Responsible Care Global Charter be fully adopted and implemented across our industry globally, for the sake of the Responsible Care brand and our industry's credibility. 9



3. COMMIT TO ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.


Responsible Care is a uniquely designed initiative that enables the global chemical industry to make a strong contribution to sustainable development.

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

problems, the industry will continue taking practical steps to implement initiatives in support of sustainable development.

The industry will expand its dialogue with stakeholders to identify additional opportunities to contribute to sustainable development through Responsible Care.

The chemical industry recognizes the

important contribution that can be made through the sound management of chemicals to achieve sustainable development goals. The industry will continue to support national and international initiatives to advance these goals. 

Performance Improvement

4. CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE AND REPORT PERFORMANCE.

Each chemical company that implements Responsible Care is expected to collect and report data for a core set of environmental, health, and safety performance measures.

Each national association is expected to collect, collate and report this data from its members in each country. The data will also be collated and reported publicly at the international level, and be updated every two years at a minimum.

In order to continue to achieve improved performance, each national association that implements Responsible Care will:


❑ Periodically assess, with the participation of their members, stakeholder expectations for expanded or modified performance reporting or other aspects of performance.

❑ Commit to providing practical help and support in sharing and adopting best practices to improve environmental, health and safety performance, and other assistance related to Responsible Care implementation needs.

Chemical companies that implement Responsible care will:

❑ Adopt a management systems approach to implement their Responsible Care commitments consisting of the internationally accepted elements of Plan-Do-Check-Act.

❑ Utilize clean and safe technologies and processes when building new plants or expanding their current facilities around the world.

❑ Go beyond self-assessment of the implementation of Responsible Care and adopt verification processes carried out either by associations, government bodies or other external organizations. 

Sustainable Development

ICCA has participated in a dialogue on sustainable development for many years and achieved acceptance from the United Nations and other stakeholders for the idea that Responsible Care is the means through which the chemical industry will practice this concept. The Charter commits chemical companies and associations to continually advance sustainable development. This consists of a set of policies and practices aimed at achieving economic, environmental, and societal progress that benefits future generations without compromising the needs of the present generation.



The Charter metrics will be the same as those that the ICCA has been using for several years. They include: number of fatalities; lost time injuries frequency rate; sulfur oxides; nitrogen oxides; chemical oxygen demand; energy consumption; direct and indirect carbon dioxide; other greenhouse gases; number of incidents; and total water consumption. ICCA periodically reviews these metrics to determine the need for any changes. The national associations will also need to determine what changes, if any, are necessary within their programmes to meet Charter commitments.

A management system approach refers to the conceptual framework whose

major elements comprise a management system. ISO 14001 is one example of a management system, as are others such as those adopted by the American Chemistry Council or the UK Chemical Industries Association. They all possess the common framework of Plan-Do-Check-Act although the level of detail included in each management system can vary. Each association will determine how it meets this Charter obligation to apply a management system approach, which can also include codes that are based on a systems approach. ICCA will offer technical assistance and guidance to promote consistency of application.

The Charter does not require third

party verification worldwide. Rather, the Charter's objective is to strengthen verification processes by offering national associations a means to go beyond self assessment through such options as processes carried out by associations, such as management systems verification approaches; or acceptance of verification by government bodies or through external organizations, such as third-party auditors, or assessors from other companies. Consistent with this approach, each national association will develop specific verification protocols based on direction from its members.



5. ENHANCE THE MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICAL PRODUCTS WORLDWIDE – PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP.

Product stewardship issues will increasingly shape the Responsible Care initiative in future years. ICCA will establish a strengthened global programme to evaluate and manage chemical-related risks and benefits by developing a unified product stewardship management system approach. This approach will be in place by 2006.

National associations, working with their member companies, will commit to this concerted global effort by establishing processes for Responsible Care companies to:

- ❑ Re-commit to full implementation

of current Responsible Care product stewardship commitments, including all existing codes, guidelines and practices.

- ❑ Improve product stewardship performance and increase public awareness of the industry's commitments and results.

- ❑ Develop and share best practices through mutual assistance.

- ❑ Work in partnership with upstream suppliers and downstream chemical users to collaborate on improved processes for the safe and effective uses of chemicals.

- ❑ Encourage and sustain support for education, research, and testing approaches

that will yield useful information about the risks and benefits of chemicals through such initiatives as the High Production Volume chemical testing programme and the Long-range Research Initiative.

- ❑ Implement enhanced product stewardship commitments consistent with the ICCA's Global Chemicals Management Policy, and periodically assess product stewardship practices in the light of evolving societal expectations for chemical products.



Product Stewardship

The ICCA's Responsible Care Leadership Group (RCLG) is investigating the management of product stewardship by soliciting input from other ICCA groups and benchmarking from existing product stewardship systems. It is also working in conjunction with the ICCA's Global Product Strategy Task Force with the goal of producing a combined, recommended management system approach. The aims of the Global Product Strategy (GPS) are to improve product stewardship within the chemical industry and

with customers throughout the chain of commerce. Key components of this programme to improve product stewardship include:

- ❑ Guidelines for product stewardship, to share best practices within the chemical industry and with customer industries;
- ❑ A tiered process for completing risk characterization and risk management actions for chemicals in commerce;
- ❑ Product stewardship performance with a special focus on working directly with downstream customers of the

chemical industry (the "value chain");

- ❑ Exploration of a potential partnership with an intergovernmental organization to enhance global product stewardship, and,

- ❑ Greater transparency, including ways to make relevant product stewardship information available to the public.

ICCA will be working with its member associations and their member companies to advance this programme in the years ahead.

Fran Keeth, president and CEO Shell Chemical LP

“The Global Charter is a key means to tie together Responsible Care efforts around the world. The Charter focuses the programmes of the 52 implementing countries on performance improvement through management systems approaches and external verification; product stewardship; and strong governance processes. Another important aspect of the Charter is that it recognizes national differences and drives Responsible Care in a local way. This recognition of regional differences in implementing Responsible Care is important to me as president and CEO of a global group with separate regional entities that operate under different cultures and regulatory systems.

To me, two key aspects of the Charter are the focus on external verification and supply chain issues. The Charter calls for external verification, which is a significant move toward greater transparency. I personally would like to see third-party verification globally and believe we will get there. The Charter also extends Responsible Care along the chemistry value chain through strong product stewardship programmes, which will be an area of significant and appropriate attention in the coming years as the world economies become more interconnected and global.

The long-term implementation of the Global Charter will be an exciting and significant effort - it's taking Responsible Care to the next level. It provides the benefit of a global conversation about increasingly global issues. While there will be fine scale differences in how Responsible Care is implemented from region to region, the Charter moves the global chemical industry forward with a homogenous approach.”





6. CHAMPION AND FACILITATE THE EXTENSION OF RESPONSIBLE CARE ALONG THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY'S VALUE CHAIN.

Responsible Care companies and associations commit to promoting the Responsible Care ethic, principles, and practices along their own value chains and communicating the importance of the industry's economic and social contributions.

Chemical companies and national asso-

ciations commit to increase dialogue and transparency with their business partners and other stakeholders and to expand knowledge and understanding of the management of chemicals. They will also work in partnership with national governments, multi-lateral and non-governmental organisations to define

mutual assistance priorities and share access to information and expertise.

The global chemical industry will develop and share information and practices across companies consistent with competition law and other legal requirements.



Value Chain Extension

Individual RCLG trade association members will undertake specific actions to promote Responsible Care 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 across the value chain. Discussion of opportunities to address these and other issues will also occur at regional conferences.

Mitsuo Ohashi, representative director and chairman of the Board of Directors, Showa Denko K.K., chairman of JCIA & JRCC

“The Global Charter is an important step in expanding Responsible Care beyond its original goals. It focuses the industry on new challenges, including the growing public dialogue about sustainable development, public health issues, greater industry transparency, and the need to extend the programme along the chemical value chain.

The Japan Responsible Care Council (JRCC) actively seeks to share the spirit and practices of Responsible Care initiatives and, indeed, to take a lead to achieve the aims of the Charter.

Capacity building activities have been led by the JRCC in Asian countries for several years, based on our mission to support developing countries in the region in their efforts to extend their Responsible Care activities.

We, JRCC, will continue our efforts to advance the global Responsible Care ethic and sustainable development through our activities.”



Ki-ho No, executive advisor, LG Chem

“The Global Charter is very important. Through the Charter we can improve our Responsible Care performance in the chemical industry, increase the industry's credibility among stakeholders, and build a foundation of more effective advocacy and assurance to business partners and business users.

The Charter will act as a major boost for Responsible Care in Asia. Responsible Care leaders in the region, including the Korean Responsible Care Council, have already declared their support for the Charter. CEOs, by signing up to the Charter, are demonstrating their commitment to the initiative and the strengthening of Responsible Care.

Implementation of the Charter will help to improve LG Chem's implementation of Responsible Care in South Korea and will assist the company and the wider industry to move toward sustainable development. Additionally, the Charter will enable the industry to clearly communicate its objectives to stakeholders and the public. Openness and clarity are very important factors for the industry.”



7. ACTIVELY SUPPORT NATIONAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBLE CARE GOVERNANCE PROCESSES.

The chemical industry, through the ICCA, commits to an enhanced, transparent and effective global governance process to ensure accountability in the collective implementation of Responsible Care. The governance process will be implemented by the ICCA and will incorporate such issues as tracking and communicating performance commitments; defining and

monitoring the implementation of Responsible Care obligations; supporting national association governance; helping companies and associations to achieve Charter commitments; and establishing a global process for revoking, when necessary, the Responsible Care status of any company or association that fails to meet its commitments.



8. ADDRESS STAKEHOLDER EXPECTATIONS ABOUT CHEMICAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS.

The global chemical industry will extend existing local, national and global dialogue processes to enable the industry to address the concerns and expecta-

tions of external stakeholders to aid in the continuing development of Responsible Care.



Resources

9. PROVIDE APPROPRIATE RESOURCES TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT RESPONSIBLE CARE.

Responsible Care is the signature performance initiative of the chemical industry, and will have an increasingly important part to play as a basis for the industry's views in societal and regulatory

discussions. Companies participating in Responsible Care must support and meet the requirements of the national programmes and provide sufficient resources for implementation.



Governance & Dialogue

The purpose and scope of the governance processes are to ensure that appropriate and effective implementation of Responsible Care commitments occurs at both the national and global levels. Effective governance processes also help ensure the credibility of Responsible Care with external stakeholders. Governance processes will include such areas as: tracking and communicating performance; defining and monitoring the implementation of Responsible Care obligations; supporting national association governance; helping companies and associations to achieve Charter commitments; and establishing a global process through the ICCA for revoking, when necessary, the Responsible Care status of any company or association that does not meet its commitments.



José Maria Bach, chairman, ICCA Responsible Care Leadership Group

“Over the past 20 years, our industry’s Responsible Care ethic has grown into a powerful tool – both in terms of driving performance improvement and helping us become more open and transparent in the ways we communicate with our stakeholders. Responsible Care is the ‘Voice of Chemistry’.

I am certain the Global Charter will revitalize Responsible Care, and raise our industry’s aspirations even higher. It fully reflects the emphasis on chemicals management that is embodied in our product stewardship activities, including other ICCA initiatives such as the new Global Product Strategy, the Long-range Research Initiative, and industry’s High Production Volume Chemicals initiative.



I fully expect the Charter will help us meet a more demanding agenda in the years ahead and help in the continuing development of Responsible Care. Through its implementation, companies will continue to improve their environmental, health and safety performance; advance sustainable development; champion and facilitate the appropriate extension of Responsible Care across the business value chain; and address stakeholder expectations.”

Responsible Care® is the chemical industry's global initiative to drive major improvements in safety, health and environmental performance across all of its activities, and to provide an effective channel for dialogue, understanding and cooperation between the industry, governments and other stakeholders.

Launched in Canada in 1985, Responsible Care is now run in 52 countries in all regions of the world by the national chemical industry associations. Each national programme is based on a set of eight fundamental features that embrace the Responsible Care ethic. Degrees of freedom allow each programme to be tailored to meet local needs.

The Responsible Care Global Charter has been designed to extend and build upon the successes of the original elements of Responsible Care as well as focusing on new and important challenges facing the chemical industry and society.

Pursuance of the ethic, principles, and actions of Responsible Care has led the chemical industry to develop several related initiatives, each of which is part of the industry's effort to live up to the public's, and its own, expectations.

For further information visit
www.icca-chem.org or www.responsiblecare.org

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