12 Key Asks for the UK Chemical Strategy

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12 Key Asks

1. Apply the precautionary principle;
2. Phase out the most hazardous chemicals from consumer products, for all non-essential uses;
3. Address endocrine disrupting chemicals, including timelines to phase them out;
4. Phase out the use of PFAS and other very persistent chemicals;
5. Apply group-based regulation to avoid regrettable substitution;
6. Address the combined exposure to chemicals – the ‘cocktail effect’;
7. Maintain and expand on workers’ health and safety;
8. Ensure a clean circular economy with products that are safe by design;
9. Develop an effective monitoring and alert system;
10. Stop the continued accumulation of legacy chemicals in the environment;
11. Remain aligned with the world-leading chemical regulation EU REACH;
12. Ensure more transparency and use of all relevant science for assessing health risks.
2. Phase out the most hazardous chemicals from consumer products, for all non-essential uses

What’s the problem?

• Many everyday products contain hazardous chemicals, e.g. flame retardants in furniture & electronics, PFAS in food packaging and cosmetics

• What we’re asking

• Adopt a generic approach to phase out chemicals with the most hazardous properties from consumer products

• Strategic investment to drive innovation of safe alternatives for essential uses
2. Phase out the most hazardous chemicals from consumer products, for all non-essential uses

**Key properties to address**
- Carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (CMRs)
- Endocrine disruptors (EDCs)
- Immunotoxic, Neurotoxic, or Toxic to a specific organ
- Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBTs)
- Persistent, mobile and toxic (PMTs)
3. A plan to address endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) including timelines to phase them out

What’s the problem?
• Harmful impact of EDCs has been known for over 20 years
• EDCs are ubiquitous in the environment and the general population

What we’re asking
• Criteria to identify EDCs and suspected EDCs
• Ban EDCs and suspected EDCs in consumer products
3. A plan to address endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) including timelines to phase them out
3. A plan to address endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) including timelines to phase them out of everyday products

• EDCs must be treated as non-threshold chemicals

• Action must be taken to prevent the UK falling behind
5. Speed up regulation of harmful chemicals & avoid regrettable substitution by adopting a grouping approach

What’s the problem?

• Regulating substances one-by-one can lead to regrettable substitutions e.g. A (BPA) and BPA substitutes e.g. BPAF, BPZ, BPB, BPS

Implement a grouping approach to:

• avoid regrettable substitution,
• regulate similar chemicals more efficiently
• limit associated financial burdens on manufacturers and retailers

Key chemicals to address:

• PFAS
• Bisphenols
• Phthalates
• Flame retardants
4. Phase out the use of PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) and other very persistent chemicals

What’s the problem?
• PFAS (Forever Chemicals) are group of over 4,500 chemicals
• PFAS are extremely persistent in the environment, with links to severe health effects, including cancer and a reduced response to vaccinations

What we’re asking
• Adopt a generic approach to phase out chemicals with the most hazardous properties from consumer products
• Strategic investment to drive innovation of safe alternatives
8. Ensure a clean circular economy with products that are safe by design

What’s the problem?
• Harmful chemicals in products can disrupt the circular economy
  • chemical content limiting reuse options
  • out-of-date safety information prevents safe recycling

What we’re asking
• Promote products that are ‘safe by design’
• Ensure chemical traceability to future proof product safety information
• No exemptions for secondary materials
For further information:

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