

The work of the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI) on PFAS

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The task of Kemi

The Swedish Chemicals Agency is supervisory authority under the Government, and we work to ensure that the companies' and society's chemicals control is managed in a good way. We strive to reduce the risk of humans and the environment getting harmed by chemicals and our goal is to prevent damage.

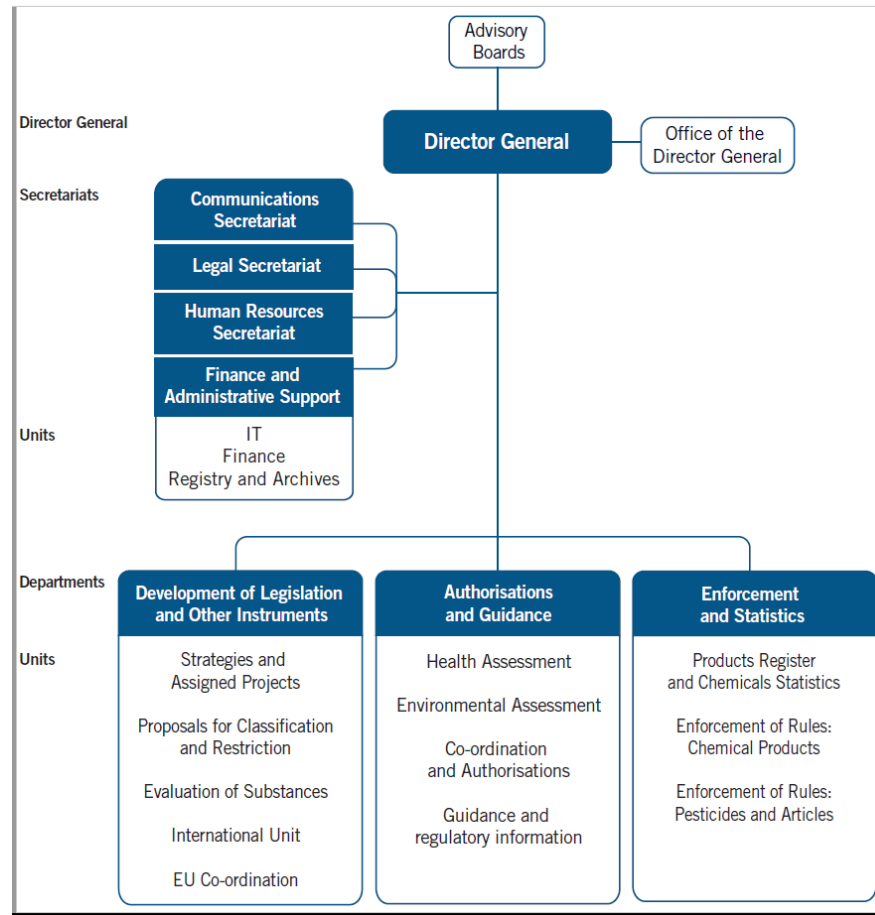
A little about Kemi

We are more than 200 employees

Many have Ph.D.-degrees

We have chemists, (eco)toxicologist,
socio-economic analysts, exposure
experts, etc

Organisation



A Non-Toxic Environment

A Non-Toxic Environment is one of 16 environmental quality objectives set by the Swedish Government. The Swedish Chemicals Agency acts as a driver of developments and submits proposals on how to achieve a non-toxic environment.

Everyone - companies, authorities, researchers, producers, consumers and others - is needed in helping to achieve the sustainable production and use of chemicals for safer products, articles and services.

How we work

Most chemicals legislations are harmonised in the EU, and therefore a big part of our work is a collaboration with other EU Member states (via ECHA, EFSA or COM).

There is no assessment of chemical products prior to release on the market: it is up to those marketing the chemical products to ensure that they don't exert a risk for humans or the environment.

Under Reach, this is done for 'industrial chemicals' as safety assessments by industry. Risk assessments by authorities are rare and made, e.g., as basis for restrictions on the EU level. Risk assessments are therefore always rather 'generic'.

Only plant production products and biocides are always assessed by authorities prior to marketing.

Our 'tools'

Registrations under REACH (which substances are used on the market, data depends on volumes)

Swedish Product Register (Anyone manufacturing or importing chemical products have to report to the PR)

Scientific articles

Monitoring (example: PFOS in the environment)



Kemi-activities in relation to PFOS

Kemi made a risk assessment and prepared a national strategi for PFOS in 2004



Kemi nominated PFOS to the Stockholm Convention in 2005 to get a global regulation of PFOS



EU-legislation came in 2006, PFOS accepted in Stockholm Conventioen 2010



Use of PFOS banned in EU since 2011

We are contributing to legislation.....

PFHxS Kemi initiative, soon in Stockholm Convention

PFOA Stockholm Convention

C9-C14 perfluorinated carboxylic acids. Proposal from DE and SE. Now regulated under Reach. Negotiations in Stockholm Convention underway.

Classification of PFNA, PFDA based on SE proposals – then nomination as SVHC.

PFHxA (a German proposal is now considered by the EU COM)

PFAS in fire fighting foam. A proposal from ECHA is now discussed.

All PFAS (proposal to be submitted in 2023 under REACH by DE, DK, NL, NO, and Sweden)

.....and enforcement

Enforcement 3/22: PFAS in chemical products and articles

The regulatory process under REACH

- A risk management option analysis is discussed by MSs.
- A proposal (usually a restriction, classification or SVHC nomination) is submitted by a MS or ECHA.
- The proposal and views from a public consultation are discussed by ECHAs scientific committees and opinions are written.
- The proposal and opinions are sent to COM, who prepares a legal proposal to be discussed by MS in the REACH committee.
- When a majority of MS can accept it (or a 'compromise' proposal) it goes for final acceptance by the EP and European Council, and then becomes a law (usually with a transition period of 18 months before entering into force).

We are collecting and spreading information

PM 5/13 Brandskum som möjlig förorenare av dricksvattentäkter (in collaboration with SLV)

PM 5/15: Survey of fire-fighting foam

PM 6/15: Chemical Analysis of Selected Fire-fighting Foams on the Swedish Market 2014

Report 7/18: PFASs in the action plan for a toxic-free everyday environment

PM 5/21: Interlaboratory Comparison of Extractable Organofluorine (EOF) – Analysis of water, effluent and sludge

PM 2/22: PFASs in chemical products and textiles

PM 3/22 Overview of knowledge on PFAS

PM 4/22: Kemikalier i skumvätskor för brandsläckning - en kunskapssammanställning

Influencing European member states

Kemi initiated and led a projekt among several MSs aiming for convincing the EU Commission that there is a need for an EU strategy for PFAS. Based on the report prepared by many MSs, a letter to the Commission requesting an EU-strategy was signed by Ministers from many EU MSs. The present EU chemicals Strategy contains PFAS and a need for regulating them.

Kemi has joined a project led by IVL aiming for spreading information and knowledge about PFAS on the eastern side of the Baltic Sea.

We have initiated Swedish information networks

- **The national PFAS-network** with broad participation from anyone interested (e.g., authorities, researchers, water producers, the military sector, consultants). Arranged by SLV, NV, and KemI. 1-2 meetings/year.
- **An authority network** mainly for information exchange. Initially for central authorities, now much broader participation (SLV, NV, KemI, JV, MSB, SGU, SGI, SVA, SKR, FIHM, Länsstyrelserna, Vattenmyndigheterna). At least 4 meetings/year.

In order to increase the knowledge about PFAS, increase collaboration, create contacts....

Present research needs on PFAS

- What happens with PFAS (PTFE) when incinerated at different temperatures?
- How to measure total PFAS in a manner meeting legal requirements (for enforcement)?