



Chemical Business Association

THE RESPONSIBLE CARE PROGRAMME OF THE CHEMICAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Appendix 2: The Business Case for Responsible Care



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Document Overview

This document looks to cover the key benefits of the Responsible Care Programme for CBA members, covering eight key points and relating them to experiences shared by current members. The document also covers a brief introduction to Responsible Care for prospective members.

Introduction

Responsible Care is the Chemical Industry's commitment to excellence and continuous improvement in health, safety, security, and environmental performance throughout the chemical supply chain.

Following the tragic Bhopal Disaster of 1984, in which over 2000 lives were taken as a result of a pesticides leak, huge steps were taken to better track, improve and communicate health, safety, security and environmental (HSSE) performances within the chemical industry. Beginning in 1985 in Canada and rapidly spreading across the globe, the Responsible Care (RC) initiative is now practiced in 67 countries. 2023 marked the 30-year anniversary of Responsible Care in the UK.

Programme Goal and Scope

A voluntary initiative unique to the chemical industry, the goals of RC focus on demonstrating to society that the UK chemical supply chain is committed to the safe and sustainable management of chemicals.

As part of the programme, steps are taken to help reduce the potential dangers from incidents which could result in injury to persons or damage to the environment. The Programme will help to ensure the correct and necessary information on the products being handled is available at all stages and that all persons involved are adequately trained and educated. This also extends to the production of an effective emergency response to on and off-site incidents.

With regards to the scope of the RC Programme, it is important to note that all aspects of the chemical supply chain are covered by the Programme, from manufacturers, through to distributors and logistics companies. The scope of RC also extends to customers and users of products, with Product Stewardship providing the basis of HSSE communication both up and down the supply chain.

The Business Case for Responsible Care

For the Business Case of the Programme, several key contributors are outlined below. These break down the benefits seen by members of the CBA as a result of the RC Programme, as well as a vision for the future of the Programme and areas the CBA and their members are looking to monitor and improve.

1) Staying ahead of the *legislative curve*

Whilst reactive changes to legislation take time, they can often be difficult to track and prepare for to ensure compliance when they take place. This is felt by many companies within the Chemical Industry as a whole and can be a headache for companies to prepare for. At the Chemical Business Association, the monitoring and contribution to legislative updates is a key part of what we do. With the dynamic and evolving nature of the Responsible Care Programme, assessment content is periodically updated to best reflect these upcoming changes to legislation, helping prepare our members for eventual legislative updates with the aim of compliance at the point of the update. This can take the place of Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) question additions or editing, as well as points of reference within the Three-Year Improvement Plan (3YIP). The staying ahead of the *legislative curve* helps avoid members from playing legislation *catch-up* and augmenting company preparedness.

2) Effective communication to customers on safe and responsible practices





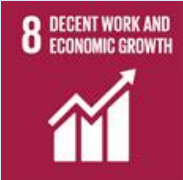




Member companies who engage with the Core Engagements of the Programme will be granted permission to use the Responsible Care Logo, communicating to customers and industrial peers their commitment to excellence and continuous improvement in HSSE performance. It also shows a commitment to the responsible and safe handling of chemical products, with the aim of improving the societal acceptance and appreciation of the industry as a whole. Use of the logo is a key motivator for many of our members to engage with the RC Programme due to the brand image benefits associated with it.



3) Guided by International Standards and Sustainability Development Goals

Whilst the contents of the Programme are tailored to the Mission Statement outlined above, there is also a degree of guidance to the Programme contents from relevant international standards and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>). With more and more companies seeking out ISO accreditation on quality management (ISO 9001), environmental management (ISO 14001) and energy management (ISO 50001) systems, it's important to communicate the overlap of these systems with the Responsible Care Programme content. This influence can be seen within the writing and updating of the Self-Assessment Questionnaire and Three-Year Improvement Plan contents. By linking contents to these standards, the Programme helps companies judge their position on international standards which they are yet to hold.

Several of the UN SDGs are also directly contributed to by the Programme. This link demonstrates the significant contribution from the Programme towards global sustainability matters, which provide further and further pressures on the industry. The relevant SDGs to the current Programme content are listed below, along with the corresponding RC Guiding Principles for each.

 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> <p>Legal Requirements</p> <p>Management of Risk</p> <p>Policies and Documentation</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Emergency Response</p>	 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p> <p>Management of Risk</p> <p>Policies and Documentation</p>	 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> <p>Policies and Documentation</p> <p>Community Interaction</p>
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> <p>Policies and Documentation</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Emergency Response</p> <p>Community Interaction</p>	 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> <p>Legal Requirements</p> <p>Management of Risk</p> <p>Policies and Documentation</p> <p>Provision of Information</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Ongoing Improvements</p>	 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> <p>Legal Requirements</p> <p>Management of Risk</p> <p>Policies and Documentation</p> <p>Provision of Information</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Ongoing Improvements</p>
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p> <p>Management of Risk</p> <p>Policies and Documentation</p> <p>Emergency Response</p>	 <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>Provision of Information</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Ongoing Improvements</p>	 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p> <p>Policies and Documentation</p> <p>Provision of Information</p> <p>Ongoing Improvements</p>

4) Entry point for other CBA services

With the Responsible Care Programme being the only compulsory part of CBA membership (except Affiliate Members), many of the other services provided by the CBA are linked to the RC Programme and can help members with their ongoing HSSE improvement. Several examples include:

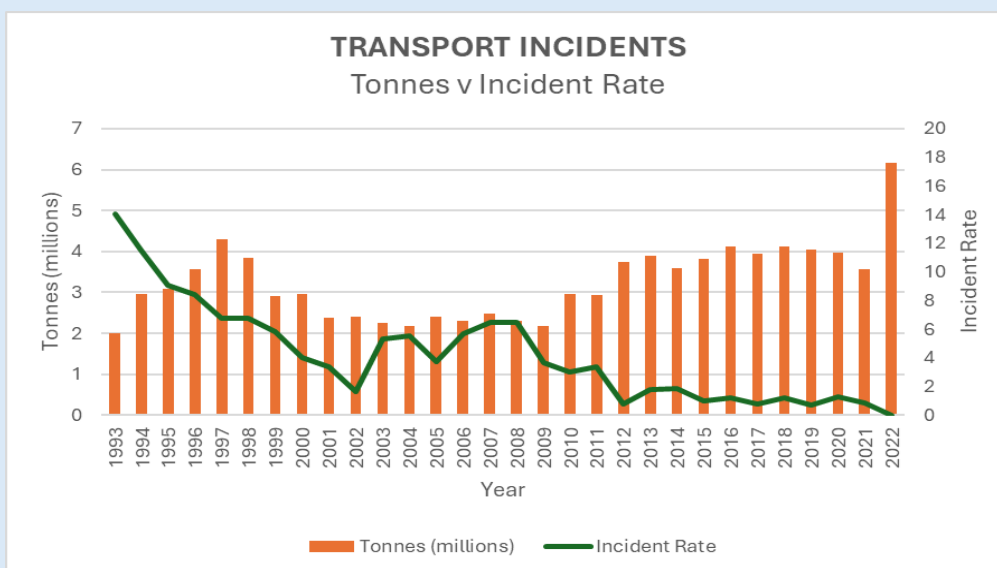
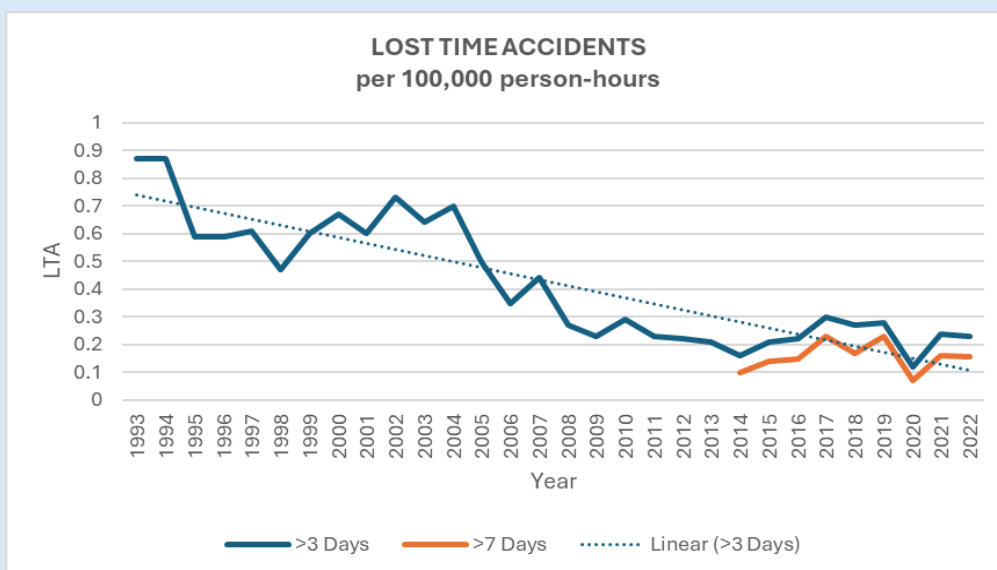
- Regulatory guidance committees and fora – ranging from COMAH, Health and Safety, Logistics and more, many of the HSSE performance indicators have related sessions to address key parts of the Programme and beyond. Engagement with the Programme will highlight to the CBA and members which sessions are most relevant for HSSE improvement.
- People & Skills Hub – recently launched within the Association, our People & Skills Hub supports members to drive recruitment and retention across the industry. Feeding well into the Training and Community Interaction Guiding Principles, the hub provides dedicated contact for upskilling within the HSSE remit.
- Sustainability Hub – looking to launch later this year, the Sustainability Hub is the CBA's resource for members starting their sustainability journey. The hub compiles the various knowledge and resources from the ever-expanding CBA membership, sharing the knowledge and best practices across the membership.
- Training workshops and seminars – events and workshops are not limited to Chemical Regulation. We cover a wide range of topics including Health and Safety, Major Hazards, Transport, Loading Securing, Dangerous Goods, Business Areas - Such as HR and Insurance, as well as many opportunities throughout the year for Social Events and Networking. Many of these are in some way linked to the RC Programme and can be utilised as part of member's continuous improvement of HSSE performance.
- Code of Conduct - The misuse of legitimate chemicals can have serious repercussions for citizens at home and abroad. Each member company has an obligation to ensure full compliance with trade controls covered by this code and that full co-operation with the authorities is standard practice. The Code of Conduct, available to members, provides guidance on how to deal with suspicious orders or enquiries, which links heavily to the Product Stewardship subsection of contents.

5) Increased incident preparedness

With the focus of the Programme being continuous improvement, this is largely carried by the undertaking of leading actions or procedures to prevent HSSE incidents. Within the Three-Year Improvement Plan, members have the opportunity to develop and push their preparedness for a wide variety of chemical handling and distribution operations. These are often guided by ways that the industry has previously been challenged, providing useful resource for members to learn from the past to prepare for the future.

The Indices of Performance provide an insightful, statistical backing for this, showing how HSSE performance has improved within a broad spread of categories. This is collected, aggregated and published as a *lump sum* for the CBA membership as a whole, and published within a yearly bulletin. The past 30 years have provided substantial evidence of significant improvements across the industry, illustrating the effectiveness of the leading actions taken since the start of the Programme.

Two illustrations of post-Responsible Care improvements to HSSE.



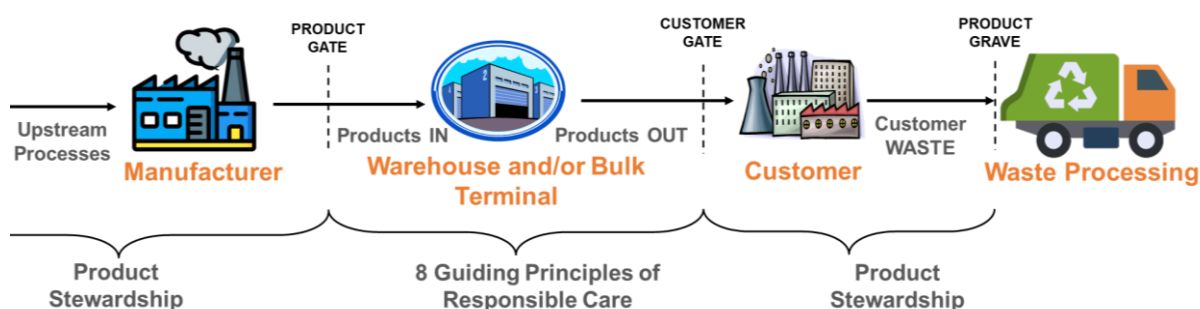
6) Networking opportunities

With Responsible Care being one of the most engaged-with Programmes at the Association, many opportunities are given to members to share their experiences and insights on the Programme’s content, as well as other HSSE issues in the wider RC field.

With *Advanced* Engagement’s on offer, such as a dedicated Advanced RC Workshop, sessions at our Member Engagement Days, discussions at the RC Committee, and dedicated on-call personnel within our offices, members who engage with the Programme have a substantial support network with all things RC. This level of open communication also serves as to benefit the Programme content, with the constant evaluation and updating of content largely stemming from member’s experiences with HSSE operations.

7) Contribution to sustainable practices

As previously mentioned, Responsible Care is a programme which continuously evolves depending on pressures felt across the entire Chemical Industry. With sustainability being the centre of many developmental efforts within the industry, CBA have been looking to support members within this field as effectively and comprehensively as possible. Within the Responsible Care Programme, sustainable practices across the entire product life cycle are covered, from the manufacturing, distribution and logistical sectors, as well as the responsible disposal of chemicals through Product Stewardship.



For many of our members, the Responsible Care Programme is the first familiarity with formalised Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and HSSE assessment. As the Programme continues to evolve, the inclusion of assessment into societal impacts from an environmental and social perspective looks to ensure that members optimise their sustainability performance to a reasonable degree based on resources available to them. Sustainable transition is not without an economic cost, so we at the CBA are looking to help optimise member performance by any possible magnitude.

Concluding Remarks

With direct links to health and safety, sustainability, training and community interaction, Responsible Care finds itself integrating with many other services offered by the CBA. It's a programme with a significant history, but also room to evolve and develop with the ever-changing world in which the Chemical Industry operates.

"The 8 Guiding Principles of Responsible Care are a key part of the CBA's commitment to enhancing self-regulation in the chemical supply chain globally, giving industry a framework to aid compliance and allowing us to measure the HSSE performance of our membership."

– Carl Mullender, Chemical Raw Materials Ltd & RC Committee Chair

Here's to many more years of success!

For any further information, please contact the Responsible Care Lead at:

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