



GUIDANCE ON KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF SAFER CHEMICAL ALTERNATIVES

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OECD ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY (EHS) PROGRAMME

37 Member countries, many partner countries and other stakeholders work together to develop and co-ordinate activities on chemical safety and biosafety on an international basis. One of the core aspects of the work relates to the Mutual Acceptance of Data.

The main objectives of the Programme are to:

- Assist OECD Member countries' efforts to protect human health and the environment through improving chemical safety and biosafety
- Make chemical control policies more transparent and efficient and save resources for government and industry; and
- Prevent unnecessary distortions in the trade of chemicals, chemical products and products of modern biotechnology.



<http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/>



Goals for International Chemicals Management are Not Being Achieved

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world.



Achievement of the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that by the year 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health

Global Chemicals Outlook II:

The global goal to minimize adverse impacts of chemicals and waste will not be achieved by 2020.

Solutions exist, but more ambitious worldwide action by all stakeholders is urgently required.



What is substitution?

The replacement or reduction of hazardous substances in products and processes by **less hazardous** or **nonhazardous substances**, or by achieving an **equivalent functionality** via technological or organisational measures

- Substitution has typically occurred in response to risk management implementation
- Current regulatory programs cannot keep up with growth in chemicals sector nor address legacy chemicals
- Need a shift to be more proactive rather than reactive in chemicals management



Incentivise substitution to more sustainable chemistries



Guidance on what constitutes
a 'safer' alternative

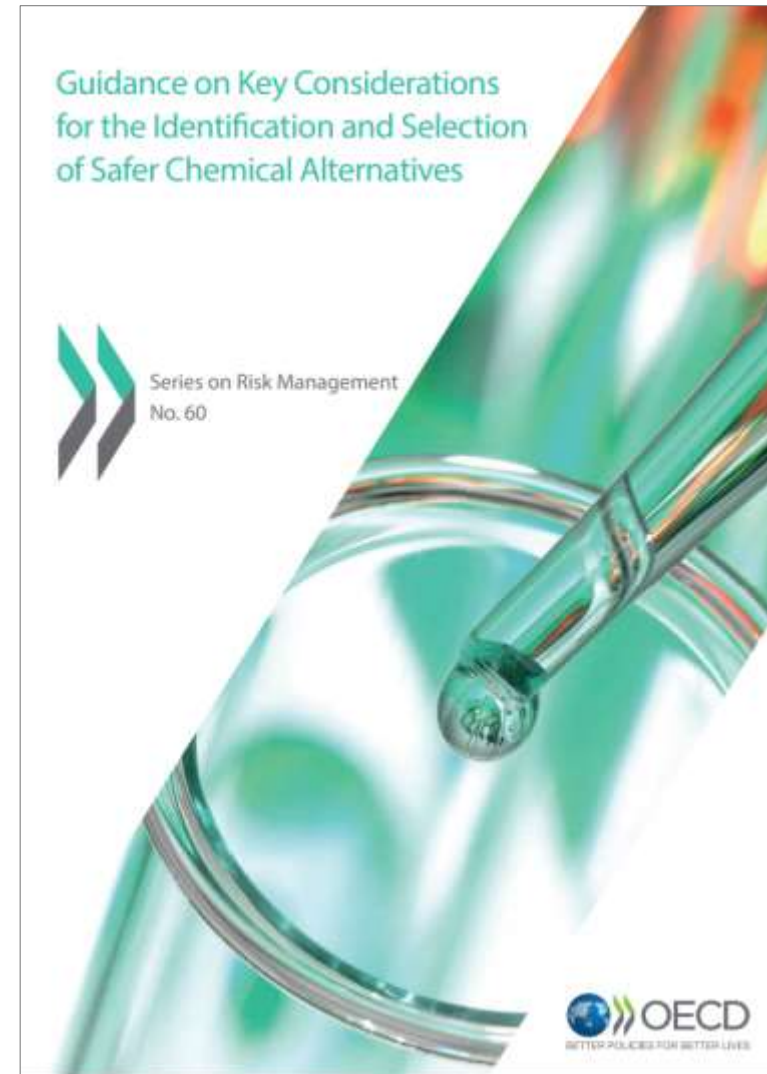


Guidance on Key Considerations for the Identification and Selection of Safer Chemical Alternatives

Goals of the guidance:

- Define “safer” chemicals in the context of alternatives assessments
- Advance a consistent understanding of the minimum requirements needed to determine whether an alternative is safer

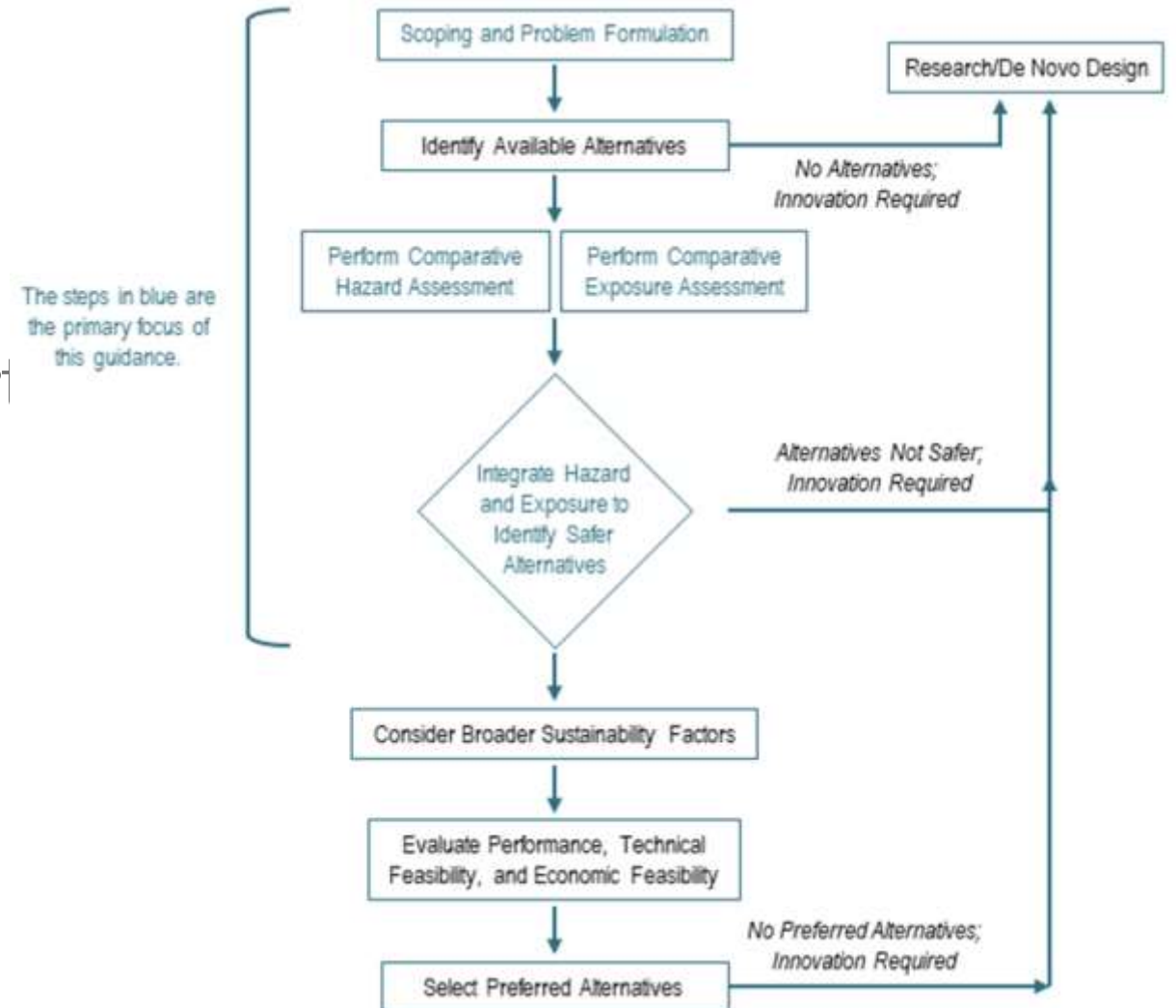
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Guidance Overview

- Purpose and Key Principles
- Minimum Criteria and Recommended Assessment Practices for Safer to Support Substitution Processes
- Self-Assessment Checklist
- Beyond Safer to More Sustainable Substitution





Key Principles

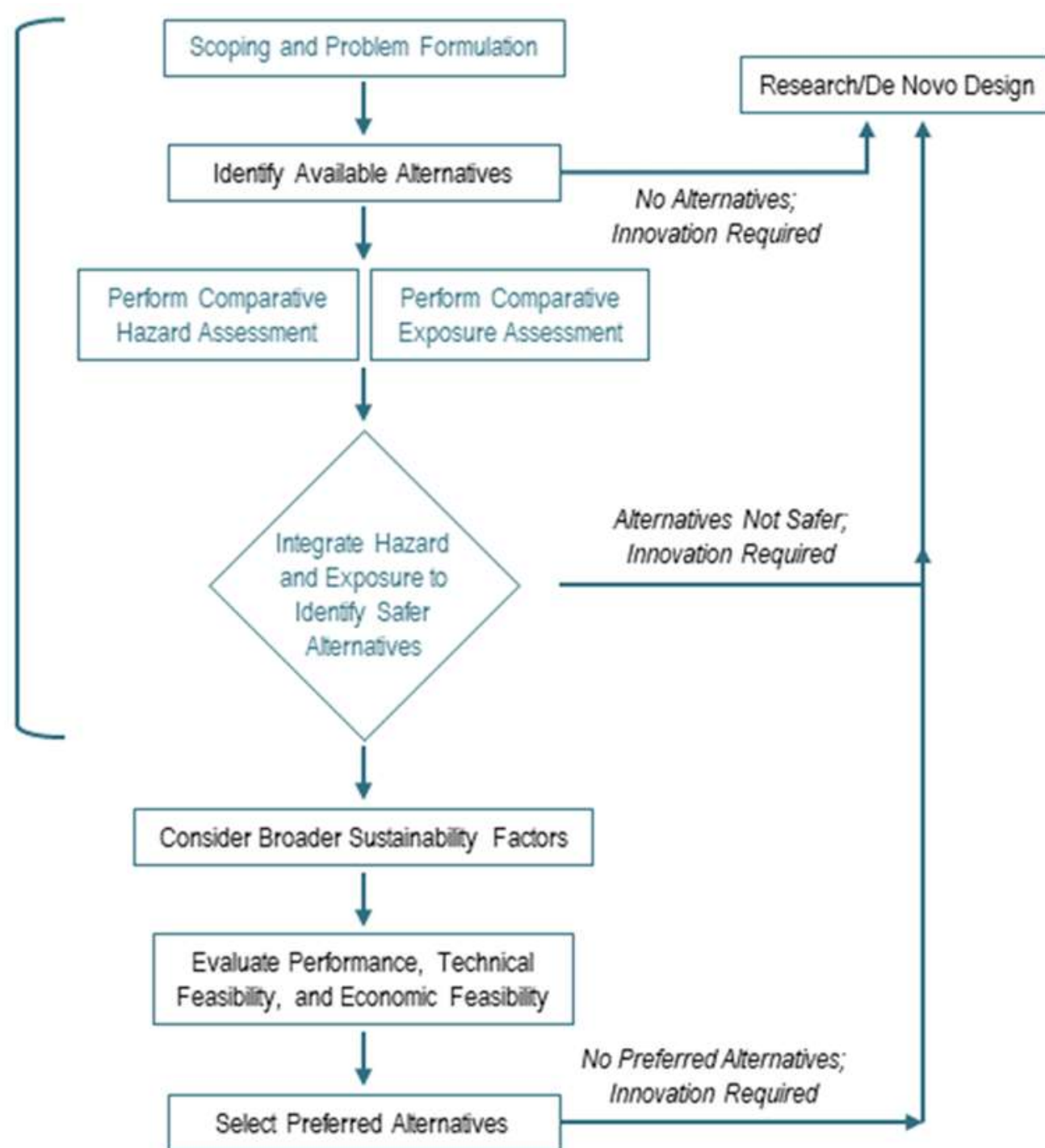
- Safer alternative definition: A chemical, product, or technology that is preferable, in terms of both hazard and potential for exposure to humans and the environment, than the existing option.
- Minimum set of requirements should be seen as the *baseline level* in a spectrum of an increasingly comprehensive set of criteria and assessment practices
- To support more comprehensive approaches, criteria and recommended practices for going beyond the minimum have been suggested as a supplement to minimum requirements

Spectrum of Safer Criteria for the Selection of Alternatives to Priority Substances





The steps in blue are the primary focus of this guidance.





Summary

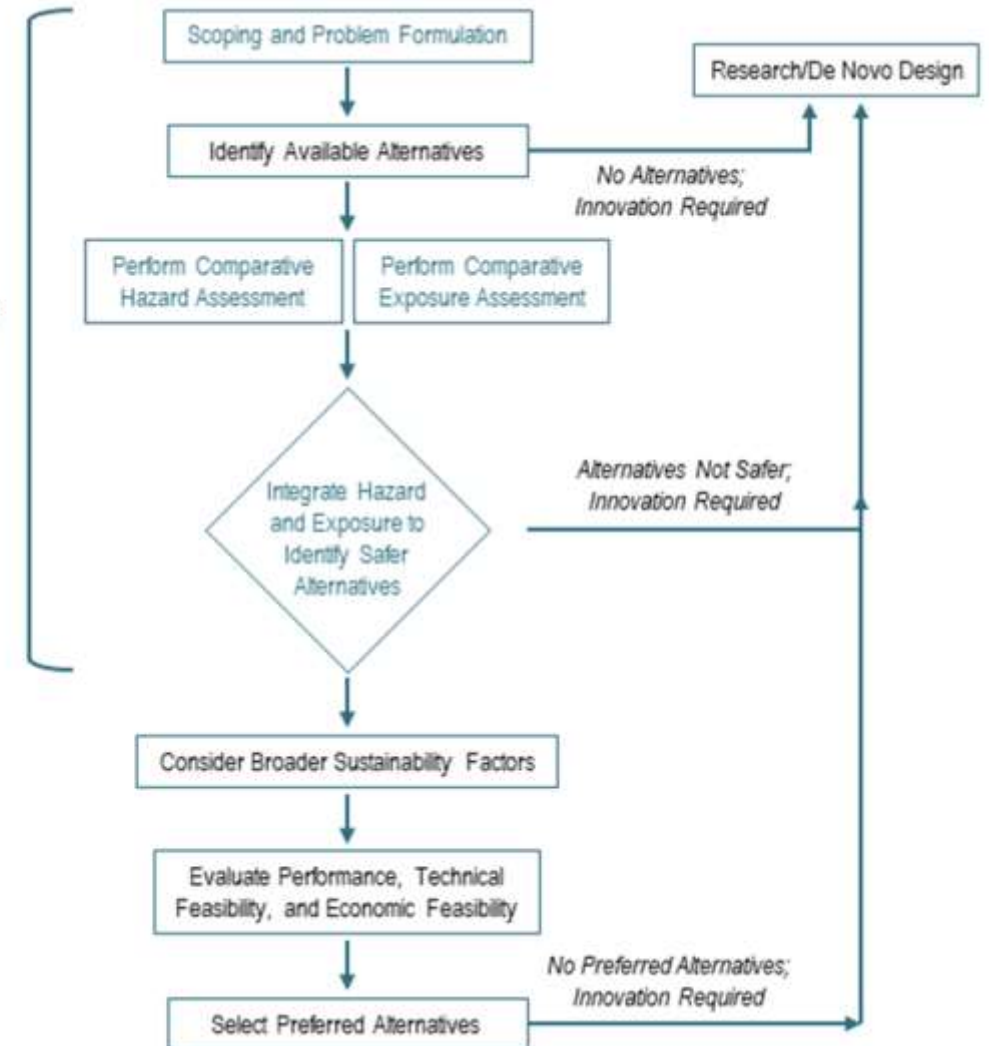
- Clearly document all decisions and strategies
- The minimum set of criteria and practices should not preclude assessors from including more comprehensive approaches in their AAs
- As science advances, criteria, endpoints or practices may become more generally used and the minimum requirements may change



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Where?

- Find the guidance at:
<https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/>
- Get the news from the chemical safety programme:
<http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/environment-health-safety-news.htm>

Thank you!