GFC Target D6 and Other Industry-Relevant GFC Targets

Sustainable Chemicals and Waste Strategies Along Value Chains:

Building Blocks and Self-Assessment Questions to Support GFC Implementation by Industry Stakeholders

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About this Document

Several Targets in the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) call for action by industry to advance the sound management of chemicals and waste. Target D6 specifically encourages that "By 2030, sustainable chemical and waste management strategies have been developed and implemented for major economic and industry sectors that identify priority chemicals of concern and standards and measures, such as the chemical footprint approach, to reduce their impact and, where feasible, their input along the value chain."

To support companies, employers' and industry organizations, and other stakeholders interested in implementing the GFC and Target D6 strategies, this document offers a set of 5 "building blocks" and checklist questions which interested stakeholders may find useful when assessing their current baseline to implement the GFC and considering next steps. Each building block features a number of components with specific questions.

The proposed building blocks and checklist questions are compatible with the call of the GFC for ambitious and urgent action. At the same time, they provide flexibility and recognize that industry stakeholders around the world have different starting points. Therefore, they do not seek to be prescriptive but rather provide a reference to inspire performance improvement, based on good practices.

The draft building blocks and checklist questions were was developed though engagement of many GFC stakeholders and has been adjusted to align with proposed building blocks for the development of national chemicals management legislation under IP 1.

Results of an IOMC/GFC survey conducted in 2025 indicated significant stakeholder interest to include benchmarking and maturity criteria in the self-assessment methodology, develop an electronic platform to support companies in linking a self-assessment with broader sustainability strategies and reporting, and to pilot test the self-assessment methodology with a diverse group of industry stakeholders along value chains.

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* *Topic has been identified as a cross-cutting thematic topic under IP2 to identify good practices, consider opportunities for alignment, and scale up action.*

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1 Corporate governance and enabling conditions

1.1 GFC Implementation and Target D6 Strategies

- ✓ How are GFC provisions and targets integrated into corporate management and sustainability strategies?
- ✓ How is the implementation of GFC targets monitored and reported?
- ✓ Is a sustainable chemicals and waste strategy as encouraged by target D 6 or a similar action plan communicated to GFC stakeholders?

1.2 Corporate chemicals policy and governance

- ✓ Is a dedicated policy on chemicals and waste under development, planned, or completed?
- ✓ Does the policy include a research and innovation component to promote safer alternatives and green and sustainable chemistry innovation?
- ✓ Is a corporate and social responsibility scheme in place?
- ✓ Does senior leadership have defined accountability for chemicals and waste management performance?

1.3 Sustainability reporting and accessing private sector financing

- ✓ Are IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards and Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) Standards reported on?
- ✓ Are the Global Reporting Initiatives (GRI) standards for reporting used?
- ✓ Are reports validated or certified by third parties?
- ✓ Are reports prepared to mobilize funding from private sector investors?
- ✓ What KPIs are used to measure performance?

1.4 Other corporate measures

- ✓ How is regulatory compliance organized and managed?
- ✓ What action are taken on employee training and fostering a culture of responsibility?
- ✓ What is done to raise public awareness and have community engagement?

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2 Fostering transparency, traceability, and disclosure along value chains

2.1 Identifying hazardous chemicals in supply chains, production, and products

- ✓ Does a list of suppliers exist who provide chemicals or products containing chemicals?
- ✓ Are chemicals purchased, used and produced on site known and listed in an inventory?
- ✓ Are all chemicals classified and labelled in accordance with the GHS?
- ✓ Are chemicals regulated by international agreements, standards or initiatives purchased, used, or produced? Relevant examples include:
    - Stockholm Convention
    - Rotterdam Convention
    - Basel Convention
    - Montreal Protocol
    - Minamata Convention
    - Chemical Weapons Convention
    - GFC Target A 7 on highly hazardous pesticides
    - PFOAs/PFCs addressed as a SAICM Emerging Policy Issue
    - Other chemicals included under SAICM Emerging Policy Issues
    - Other agreements and conventions in health, workplace, agriculture, and other key sectors (e.g. relevant International Labour Standards)

2.2 Fostering transparency, traceability and disclosure along value chains

- ✓ Are suppliers requested to report on chemicals in materials and products supplied? If yes, what systems/tools are used to report this information?
- ✓ Is reliable information on the identity of chemicals in production and use, ingredients, materials, and products available and traceable along the value chain?

3 Risk Management and Operational Control

3.1 Occupational safety and health

- Providing safety data sheets in accordance with the GHS for all chemicals?
- Handling, safe storage and transportation of chemicals and waste?
- Communicating chemical safety information to all workers in a language and format they understand?
- Applying the hierarchy of controls (elimination, substitution, engineering, administrative, Personal Protective Equipment) to prevent or minimize exposure to chemicals?

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- Monitoring of occupational exposure and health surveillance of workers handling hazardous chemicals?
- Implementing participatory workplace risk assessments and regular safety inspections?

✓ Are guidelines, best available practices, and standardized tools for assessing chemicals and waste exposure or risks available and applied?

✓ Are systems in place to record, report, and investigate occupational accidents, near-misses, and work-related diseases linked to chemicals?

✓ Are responsibilities to ensure chemical and waste safety assigned? Are managers and workers adequately trained?

3.2 Emergency prevention, preparedness, and response

✓ Are measures and a system in place, with measures and requirements for emergency procedures, preparedness, and responses to incidents and accidents?

✓ Are safety checks implemented on site, including for leaks, releases, waste containment, safety equipment and engineering controls?

4 Assessment, footprinting and target setting

4.1 Identifying and assessing priority chemicals of concern[i]

✓ Have priority chemicals of concern been identified in supply chains, production and products?

✓ If so what criteria have been used in identifying priority chemicals of concern, such as workplace exposure and monitoring results, health effects and environmental impacts?

✓ Which hazard lists, if any, are used to identify priority chemicals of concern?

✓ Are chemicals addressed by international agreements or initiatives included?

4.2 Assessing the chemical footprint and impact of priority chemicals along value chains

✓ Is a system in place to measure the use of chemicals of concern associated with raw materials and feedstocks, production processes and products along value chains?

✓ Are hazardous waste materials identified and documented /quantified along value chains?

✓ Are pollutant releases and transfers to air, water and land from production and products estimated and publicly available?

✓ Is a system in place to measure the toxicity impacts of chemicals associated with raw materials and feedstocks, production processes, and products along value chains?

✓ Are monitoring and surveillance data generated (e.g. on concentrations and exposure sources of chemicals in the environment and humans)?

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4.3 Reduction or phase out targets for priority chemicals of concern[ii]

- ✓ Have targets been set to reduce or eliminate priority chemicals of concern in production and products?
- ✓ Are measures in place to comply with international agreements and initiatives referred to under Area 2.1?
- ✓ Do reduction or phase-out plans include measures to protect workers during transition (e.g. substitution processes, waste handling)?
- ✓ Are workers trained and equipped to handle new substances or processes introduced as substitutes?

5 Prevention, Innovation and Market Transformation

5.1 Implementing sustainable procurement and supply chain management

- ✓ Are procurement criteria and minimum standards for suppliers in place (e.g. a code of conduct or code of leadership) to reduce or avoid priority chemicals of concern?
- ✓ Do procurement standards require suppliers to implement basic OSH measures to ensure the right to a safe and healthy working environment?
- ✓ Has a Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (MRSLs) been adopted?
- ✓ Are chemicals, materials and products in the supply chain tested for their health and environmental impact?
- ✓ Are measures in place to promote collaboration with suppliers and partners to ensure safer and sustainable practices throughout the supply chain?
- ✓ Are chemicals and waste audits of suppliers conducted?
- ✓ Are benchmarking tools and quantitative performance indicators used (e.g., chemical use, waste reduction)?

5.2 Green and sustainable chemistry innovation

- ✓ Are international guidelines and principles on green and sustainable chemistry known and applied in the company?
- ✓ Are resources invested for research into safer alternatives and/or green and sustainable chemistry solutions?

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5.3 Fostering sustainable business models and product design

- ✓ Are measures in place to ensure sustainable product design, for example, by:
    - applying safe and sustainable product design principles
    - designing-out hazardous substances
    - avoiding regrettable substitution and negative trade-offs
    - designing products in a way that recycling does not cause contamination problems in recycled/upcycled products
- ✓ Is a Restricted Substances List (RSLs) used that defines standards for chemicals in finished products?

  Are innovative business models applied (e.g. chemical leasing) to foster sustainable products development?

5.4 Advancing the sustainability of production processes

- ✓ Are systems in place to:
    - advance resource efficiency?
    - reduce emissions to air, water and land, e.g. by improving process efficiency?
    - manage wastewater and sludge in an environmentally sound manner?
    - dispose solid waste in an environmentally sound manner?
- ✓ Are good practices applied when disposing chemicals and chemical-containing products (e.g. appropriate contractors)?

[i] Certain jurisdictions have identified priority chemicals of concern, such as the Candidate List of substances of very high concern for Authorisation developed under REACH in the European Union. Priority chemicals of concern also exist for certain industries and/or individual companies, e.g. in the textile or electronic industries (e.g EU RoHS requirements). Lists of chemicals of concern have also been developed by NGOs, for example, the SIN list developed by ChemSec and the List of Chemicals under the Chemical Footprint Project developed by Clean Production Action.

[ii] The international community has taken steps to prioritise certain types of substances for regulatory action, based on their hazard profiles and risks to human health and the environment. These include, but are not limited to: carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic to reproduction substances (CMRs); persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic, or very persistent and very bio-accumulative substances (PBTs/vPvBs); endocrine disruptors (EDCs).Specific chemicals, groups of chemicals and materials receiving specific attention for risk reduction and/or elimination include Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs); Heavy metals; and Plastics.