

Retail Portal Project Update

11.08.10

Following up on our last working group call at the end of August, we have developed a framework for capturing information for the retail portal. Our goal in developing this framework is to provide enough information for a retailer who is searching for product chemicals management information to become familiar with key evaluation tools being used in their product sector. There is a balance between too much and too little information and we hope the framework we have developed captures this balance. The information will be captured by:

Retail product sector

15 product sectors have been identified:

1. Apparel / Footwear
2. Tools / Hardware / Plumbing
3. Paints / Coatings
4. Building Materials
5. Furniture
6. Electronics
7. Hard goods / Appliances
8. Cleaning products (Household & industrial)
9. Lawn and Garden / Pesticides / Pool chemicals
10. Automotive
11. Toys
12. Health / Beauty / Cosmetics / Pharmacy
13. Jewelry / Crafts / Photo
14. Food /Beverage
15. Outdoor / Sporting Goods

Evaluation tools

Within each of the 15 product sectors, an initial 6-8 evaluation tools used in each product sector that are helping retailers move beyond compliance will be identified. These tools will be a combination of:

- a. Chemical Screening Tools
- b. Product (Article) Screening Tools
- c. Certifications and Labels
- d. Restricted Substances Lists (RSLs)
- e. Other (includes retailers' in-house or proprietary chemicals and product management systems)

Information captured for each evaluation tool

The information that is being collected for each evaluation tool is as follows:

- i. Name of Evaluation Tool
- ii. Brief description of the tool
- iii. At a Glance: what is the goal & purpose of the tool?
- iv. Tool owner / sponsor

- v. Type of entity (Non-profit, corporate, consulting, academic, government, industry trade association, etc.)
- vi. Tool website
- vii. Focus of evaluation (substances (chemicals, ingredients) , products (articles), companies/product lines)
- viii. Product stage of life evaluated (manufacturing, transportation, consumer use, end of life)
- ix. Impacts evaluated (GHGs, embodied energy, toxics impacting humans and environment)
- x. Process description (summary of tool goal and use)
- xi. Product category (which product types or industries the tool evaluates: 15 retail product sectors have been identified*)
- xii. Data needs (type of input needed from supplier/vendor)
- xiii. Cost of tool (fee structure)
- xiv. Evaluation frequency
- xv. Some retailers who use it
- xvi. Similar tools (tools that serve the same industry or product category)
- xvii. Who to contact for more information
- xviii. Comments

Project timeline:

- Data is currently being collected for the 6-8 key evaluation tools within each product sector. We endeavor to have completed this data collection by the end of January 2011. At this time, the working group will decide the best way for the data to be used– as an Excel document or a searchable database, etc.
- Working with Lowell Center staff, the working group will then develop a brief analysis of the research findings including an identification of gaps and limits in the data.
- Both the retail portal and analysis will be published in time for the GC3 Roundtable in May 2011.