

**Product Stewardship –
Benefit with Traders Audit**

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VCH – Verband Chemiehandel

Who is VCH?

Verband Chemiehandel, Cologne, Germany

Member Companies: 132

- Chemical Distributors: 108

- Associate 24

e.g.: consultants, logistic services, packaging producers,
architects connected to chemical distributors

therof SME's 85 %

No. of employees ≈ 7.000

No. of sites 314

Turnover 1.025 mill €

VCH RC-Programme

Start: 20.11.1996

- resolution of General Assembly
- subscription of VCI/VCH RC-Partnership-Agreement

Based on:

- Guidelines of chemical distribution for the safe handling of chemicals, their marketing and information of the public
- Joint CEFIC/FECC Product Stewardship Guidelines
- ICCTA Responsible Care/Responsible Distribution Programme

Participants to RC-Programme

Members committed to RC:	62
% of members committed to RC:	57 %
% of turnover committed to RC:	66 %
% of employees committed to RC:	77 %

Participation to the VCH RC-Programme is voluntary.

Audit and Continuous Process Improvement

Start: Self-Assessment Questionnaire

- deduction and analysis of deficiencies and need of improvement

Need for actions:

Communication, environment protection, company organisation, delegation of responsibility, supervision

Less deficiencies:

Transport safety, occupational safety, product stewardship

Approved by independent competent third party

3-year improvement plan

- based on self assessment in agreement with third party
- defining concrete, RC related objectives, viz. in minimum indication of the objective, the actions, the responsible person and an deadline within 3 years
- annual evaluation of the actions and still open deficiencies
- complete deficiencies processing
- annual and systematic identification of opportunities for improvements by a “new” self assessment
- assessment after 3 years, whether the objections are achieved and fulfilling the RC ethic
- measures performance

Third Party Verification (TPV) within RC

- mandatory TPV by a third party using a suitable assessment system e.g. ESAD II
- verification means a pass/fail in implementing the measures covered by the improvement plan or changes in codes of conduct

TPV body

- Criteria need to be applied to evaluate independence and competence of the third party:
 - significant source of income outside of chemical industry
 - receiving of specific training and refresher training on RC-programmes

- VCH approach

Korff & Schlüter Consultancy
www.korff-schlueter.de

ESAD – European Single Assessment Document

= voluntary assessment system to evaluate the quality, safety and environmental performance of chemical distributors in a uniform manner through single standardized assessments, carried out by independent assessors using standard questionnaire

Objectives and Structure of ESAD

Goal:

Ensure, that chemical distribution is operating in a safe and high-quality manner considering the safety of employees, general public and environment.

Procedure:

- Assessment of the chemical distributor with regard to
 - activities and functioning
 - structural and operational organisation
 - infrastructure (plant, equipment, vehicles)
- Are all requirements fulfilled?
 - legal requirements
 - implementation of industrial standards in regard to safety, health and quality

Characteristic of ESAD

- it is not a standard for SHE & Q-management
 - it is no certification of the c.i.p.
 - only establishes actual state
 - opportunity to evaluate the c.i.p. by your own
 - consistent evaluation of the SHE & Q-managementsystem by an independent assessor
 - provides beneficial expertise of distributors strengths and weakening to the suppliers/producers
- providing a third party assessment system for the distributor's compliance to their RC-programme

Conclusions

- defining need improvement
 - evaluating c.i.p.
 - tool of risk management
 - mechanism for dialogue about continuous improvement
 - communicate risk and risk acceptance
 - independent and uniform assessment of SHE & Q performance (e.g. using ESAD II)
 - motivation for further improvement
 - contributes to and demonstrates the sustainability of the sector
- promoting trust

Thank you very much for your attention !

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