

Clean material cycles from a governmental point of view

Anne Marie Vass, Elin Simonsson
Swedish Chemicals Agency

29 October 2015

The Swedish Chemicals Agency

- Authority under the Swedish government



- Responsible for the environmental quality objective
A Non-Toxic Environment



- ... including the milestone:
Non-toxic and resource-efficient lifecycles

Driving forces in a circular economy

A circular economy requires:

- attractive secondary raw materials
- circular material flows without harm to human health or the environment

Example:

Sandwich materials/mixed materials

- Low demand
- Contamination of virgin materials
- Value losses



Obstacles to clean material cycles from a regulatory perspective

Today:

- We lack information on substances in materials
- Hazardous substances are available in the material cycles
- Hazardous substances are added to virgin materials

We lack information on substances in materials

REACH requires:

- Information about registered **substances**
- Information on **SVHC in articles** in the supply chain

Insufficient information: Stops before the end-of-life

Solution:

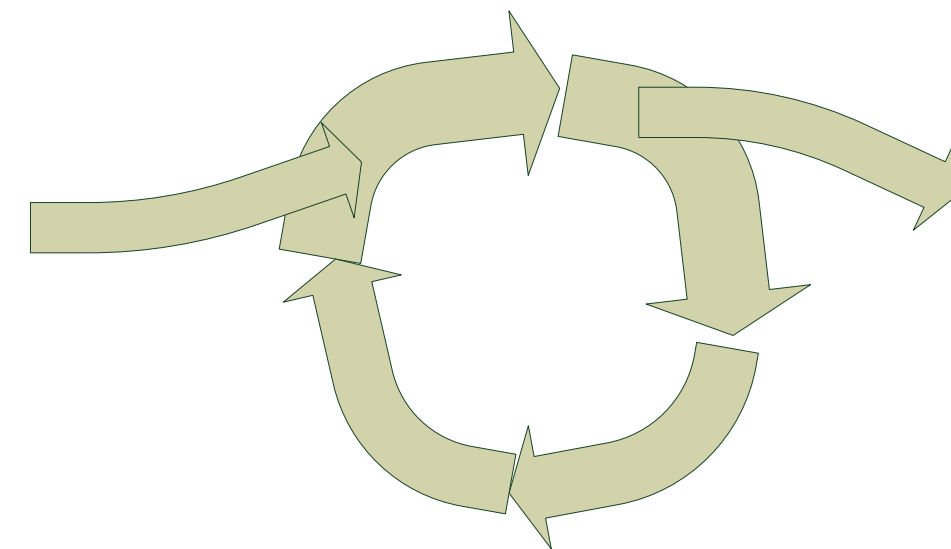
Use other legislations for specific requirements on supply of information to the recycling, reuse and waste sectors.

Ex. Ecodesign, Construction Products Regulation

Hazardous substances are available in the material cycles

Solution:

- Everything shall not be recycled
- Equal treatment of recycled and virgin materials
- Do not exempt recycled materials from REACH restrictions and authorisation



The aim of authorisation is substitution: Let REACH do its job!

Hazardous substances are added to virgin materials

Solution:

Substitute to ensure that virgin materials are recyclable from a chemical point of view by:

- Additional restrictions under REACH.
- More substances in the REACH authorisation process
- Develop complementary requirements in product specific legislation e.g. RoHS, Toys Directive
- Develop new sector specific legal frameworks for e.g. textiles and construction products

Conclusions

Material cycles today contain unwanted substances

Toxic material cycles are not interesting for the market and create risks for human health and the environment

Chemicals regulation is a necessary tool to achieve non-toxic material cycles through:

- Requiring information on hazardous substances throughout the lifecycle**
- Phasing out legacy hazardous substances**
- Restricting hazardous substances upstream**

Thank you for listening!