



the **Chemunicator**

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**A REPORT ON
THE 2023 AGM**

**THE OPTIMISM
OF SPRING: A
LOOK AT FRAUD**

**RDC'S ADVOCACY
JOURNEY IS
BLOOMING**

**AN INDUSTRY IN
BLOOM: WHAT TO
WATCH FOR ON
SUSTAINABILITY**

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WITH FRESH AIR, COMES A FRESH OUTLOOK!

Victoria Wright
Manager, Member Services & Communications - RDC | DRC
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We are an industry in bloom! If you speak to anyone in our industry right now, it seems everyone is running at a mile a minute. Gone are the days of lulls in the year, and our industry continues to grow and flourish throughout the four seasons. Amidst the business, our industry continues to grow and redefine our efforts towards a more sustainable, fruitful future.

RDC Chairman, Frank Dempsey, discusses the need for continue conversation and advanced framework for environmental, social and governance (ESG) efforts in 2023 and beyond on page 5 & 6. The responsibility to our planet, people and communities has never proved more important and we as an industry have the power to make a change within our working cultures and everyday operations. But how do we start? This has led RDC to develop the Sustainability Committee. Lead by Sukhjit Varaich of Univar Solutions, this committee will work towards tangible steps and working tools to implement reasonable programs and highlight existing ESG efforts amongst the membership.

This year's Reimagine Conference reflected the blooming of a new era. The option to reimagine the way we do business, interact with our employees, and develop meaningful, long-lasting relations. New and returning faces were seen at this year's conference, and like events in 2022, there was an undeniable energy and comradery in the room that you just can't explain, without experiencing it yourself! See page 8 for a full event summary.

As is typical with our industry, another "blooming" part of the business is advocacy and regulatory. The association

is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers with excellent technical expertise, along with our dedicated staff at RDC who can help members navigate turbulent regulations and changes to the regulatory/government landscape. Although our advocacy efforts are more refined in 2023, the association is very busy working on matters of great importance to the membership. In the words of Cathy Campbell, the RDC Advocacy Journey is Blooming. Be sure to check out her article on page 22 where she delves in on RDC's current and past journey in advocacy efforts.

The membership is doing incredible things already in 2023. We were pleased to receive a record of submissions for ongoing company efforts, philanthropic ventures and employee accomplishments since last year's fall/winter issue. Be sure to tune in to our Company & Employee News section to see all the great things happening in the industry, including the introduction to new RDC member & affiliate companies you'll have the pleasure of connecting with in 2023 & beyond.

This year's issue marks a positive entry to 2023, and an optimistic outlook for the rest of the year, and the future of the association and its members dedicated to doing the right thing. We continue to grow as an association, as an industry, and as working professionals in this ever-changing market.

We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we do.

Stay blooming!

Victoria

CHAIR'S MESSAGE



RDC'S JOURNEY TO SUSTAINABILITY

Frank Dempsey, Dempsey Corp.
Chair, Responsible Distribution Canada
Email: chair@rdcanada.ca

Spring is an exciting time of year. It's when the warmer weather invites us back to the great outdoors and we can observe the world around us bursting with life. Spring brings a renewed sense of hope, growth, and transformation. It's also an opportune time to contemplate our place within nature and to examine the impact our businesses have on the world.

It is therefore not surprising that Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) has rapidly emerged as a vital framework for guiding responsible business practices. With its focus on sustainable development, social responsibility, and long-term value creation, RDC has made ESG a priority at the recent Board's strategic planning session.

Our membership today includes a wide variety of companies who are currently at different stages of their ESG journey ranging from the novices to the trailblazers. ESG can mean different things to different people and will likely result in the creation of different ambitions and goals for your businesses. Furthermore, developing your own unique program takes time and effort to get it right.

Despite these differences, we naturally share a common interest in raising awareness of the important issues at stake and ultimately seeing our industry become more resilient and accountable to our many stakeholders. ESG is here to stay, and it has become very difficult to remain ambivalent about where your company stands on this important topic. It is not only your customers and suppliers who are inquiring, but certainly your own employees too!

As a response to this growing interest, RDC recently launched in 2022 the Sustainability Committee that will

seek to promote measurable actions that positively impact companies in the Chemical and Ingredient distribution supply chain.

Chaired by Sukhjit Varaich from Univar Solutions, this committee will help support and educate member companies in championing sustainable practices. In practical terms, RDC will work to create helpful resources to assist member companies with the implementation and support of new and existing sustainability programs within their organizations.

The Sustainability Committee will also be looking for ways to incorporate some of the ESG initiatives of our American counterpart the National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD). Thus, aligning the commitment of both associations to embed ESG policies into their pre-existing Codes of Practice in the future.

Our association is fortunate to have such a diverse group of dedicated and passionate individuals volunteering their time on this committee. We extend our appreciation to the member companies that support the valuable work carried out by these volunteers and we invite anyone else interested to join us. This new initiative serves as another testament to the unwavering dedication of our membership to forge together a brighter and more sustainable future for us all.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer holiday!

Frank



LE VOYAGE DE RDC VERS LA DURABILITÉ

Frank Dempsey, Dempsey Corp.
Chair, Responsible Distribution Canada
Email: chair@rdcanada.ca

Le printemps, cette période captivante de l'année, nous accueille avec sa chaleur bienfaisante, nous incitant à nous immerger de nouveau dans la nature et à contempler la vie qui foisonne autour de nous. Il insuffle en nous un sentiment renouvelé d'espoir, de croissance et de transformation. C'est également un moment propice à la réflexion sur notre position au sein de l'écosystème et à l'évaluer l'impact de nos actions et de nos entreprises sur le monde qui nous entoure.

Il n'est donc pas surprenant que l'Environnement, le Social et la Gouvernance (ESG) aient rapidement émergé comme un cadre essentiel pour guider les pratiques commerciales responsables. Avec son accent sur le développement durable, la responsabilité sociale et la création de valeur à long terme, le conseil de la RDC a fait de l'ESG une priorité lors de la récente session de planification stratégique.

Notre adhésion regroupe aujourd'hui une grande variété d'entreprises qui se situent à différents stades dans leur parcours ESG, allant des novices aux pionniers. L'ESG peut signifier des choses différentes pour différentes personnes et entraînera probablement à la création d'ambitions et d'objectifs variés pour vos entreprises. De plus, l'élaboration de votre propre programme unique requiert du temps et des ressources pour être réalisée correctement.

Malgré ces différences, nous partageons naturellement un intérêt commun pour mettre en avant les enjeux importants et ainsi contribuer à rendre notre industrie plus résiliente et responsable envers nos nombreuses parties prenantes. L'ESG est là pour rester, et il est devenu très difficile de rester indifférent sur ce sujet important. Ce ne sont pas uniquement vos clients et fournisseurs qui s'interrogent à votre propos de vos actions, mais également vos propres employés !

En réponse à cet intérêt croissant, RDC a mis sur pied en 2022 le Comité du Développement Durable qui a pour objectif de promouvoir des actions ayant un impact positif sur les entreprises qui font partie de la chaîne d'approvisionnement et de distribution de produits chimiques et d'ingrédients alimentaires.

Présidé par Sukhjit Varaich de Univar Solutions, ce comité a pour mission de soutenir et à éduquer les entreprises dans la promotion de pratiques durables. Plus concrètement, RDC travaillera à la création de ressources pratiques destinées à aider les entreprises à instaurer et à soutenir de nouveaux programmes de développement durable au sein de leurs organisations.

Le Comité du Développement Durable cherchera également des moyens d'incorporer certaines des initiatives ESG de notre homologue américain, l'Association Nationale des Distributeurs de Produits Chimiques (NACD). Ainsi, l'engagement des deux associations à intégrer les politiques ESG dans leurs codes de pratique préexistants sera aligné à l'avenir.

Notre association a la chance de pouvoir compter sur un groupe varié de personnes dévouées et passionnées qui offrent bénévolement leur temps à ce comité. Nous exprimons notre gratitude aux entreprises membres qui soutiennent l'important travail accompli par ces volontaires et invitons tous ceux qui sont intéressés à se joindre à nous. Cette nouvelle initiative témoigne de l'engagement de nos membres à forger ensemble un avenir plus brillant et plus durable pour nous tous.

Je vous souhaite à tous des vacances d'été agréables !

Frank



Shaping the future of our industry

At Brenntag, we add value for our partners every step of the way: through our product knowledge, innovation, and sustainable solutions. Combined with our people's passion for delivering service excellence, these are just some of the outstanding benefits of partnering with the global market leader in chemical distribution.

Join us as we shape the future of our industry!

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A REPORT ON THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By: Victoria Wright Manager, Member Services & Communications | RDC

This year's 37th Annual General Meeting was held in beautiful Montebello, QC at the Fairmont Le Château Montebello. This conference followed 2022's meeting in Victoria, BC, and although Victoria was beautiful in its seaside nature, Montebello brought its own small-town rustic charm that welcomed guests into the largest log cabin in the world.

This year's AGM was kicked off by none other than Phil Zerr of Quadra Ltd., who as of June 1st 2023 will act as RDC's Vice Chair. Phil did an excellent job at navigating the day-to-day events and keeping us on schedule. A big thank you to Phil for emceeing this year's event!

The association was very pleased to present TWO keynote speakers to this year's AGM stage: Dr. John Izzo and Marc Lafleur. Marc Lafleur left the group on Day 1 with a series of thoughts and questions regarding the world's readiness for Web3 as well as working knowledge on blockchain, bitcoin & NFT's. Marc was unlike any speaker the association has brought forward in the past and aimed to please the need for AI & technology, futuristic speakers. Dr. John Izzo took the stage to kick off Day 2 and left the audience with many

takeaways for modern-day leadership, how to build strong teams and leverage longevity of your key players. One of John's most memorable takeaways was that we want to build on our employee perception by bridging the person-to-person connection, "we only believe 16% of what the company says about itself but 78% believe the word of an employee". Let your company's reputation speak for itself.

This year we were pleased to bring back two familiar face and crowd pleasers: Sarah Howcroft of BMO Capital Markets as well as Sean Simpson of Ipsos Canada. Although they weren't able to provide the most optimistic outlooks, Sarah and Sean presented the realities of the current Canadian climate, both socially and economically. The country has not had a favourable economic outlook since 2020, given the timeline of the pandemic, the era of inflation, the war on Ukraine, rate hikes, banking crisis and the wildfires that continue to ravage on Canada. On a positive note, Sarah pronounced the labour demand and supply is moving into better balance in 2023, slowly but surely. Canada is still working to slow inflation in light of rising costs since 2019. Sean Simpson shared a similar "loom and gloom" report on Canadian society stats, and although they're very cumbersome, the audience was enlightened to hear recounts of the masses in Canada and a need for change in future years. A few shocking takeaways from Sean's presentation:

- 55% of Canadian's are worried that they might not have enough money to feed their family.
- 70% of Canadian's are worried that interest rates will rise quicker than they can adjust.
- 67% of Canadian's can't absorb unexpected costs of \$1,000 or more while 54% may not be able to pay their full credit card bill.

With the slogan, "Responsibility Matters", we believe these speakers highlight important societal issues that beg to be brought to the forefront. Any change we can make in the lives of our families and employees matter during these uncertain times.

On Wednesday, we were also pleased to bring in another familiar face- Bernie Cook of Brenntag Canada. Bernie is no stranger to the RDC community as a dedicated volunteer



Keynote Speaker, Dr. John Izzo seen here with RDC Secretary Treasurer, Chris Halberg of Univar Solutions.

for over two decades. Bernie has been a valued Chair of the infamous Code Committee, and his immense technical background and passion for the industry has assisted the association in maintaining and improving the RDC Code of. Bernie discussed common themes of audit fatigue and audit inundation, as comes with our industry. Above all else, Bernie reminded the group the “WHY” of why we go the extra mile as an industry. To protect people, the environment, and our communities at large.

After a jam-packed afternoon session, guests excitedly jumped aboard the safari buses on pursuit of Parc Omega, one of the world’s largest North American wildlife exhibits. Guests were pleased to encounter bears, wolves, caribou, moose, arctic foxes and more along the safari excursion. Following the excursion, everyone enjoyed a standing dinner and cocktail reception overlooking Bird Lake.

Thursday morning came early for RDC’s Annual Member Meeting. RDC Chairman, Frank Dempsey, kicked things off with the 37th AGM Chair Report. The group approved the previous minutes, the 2022 financial statements and the appointment of Bateman McKay, RDC’s financial auditor for



RDC Chairman, Frank Dempsey of Dempsey Corporation congratulates Jean-Pierre Pelchat on his retirement from industry.



A spectacular outdoor reception on Bird Lake at Parc Omega.

A REPORT ON THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

the following year. RDC would like to give special mention to JP Pelchat of Azelis Canada, who has served admirably on the RDC Board of Directors the past several years. JP looks forward to a meaningful retirement from industry, and RDC extends sincere gratitude for his contributions and dedicated support.

Thursday's session featured Mark Jasper of GHD Ltd., Denis Lauzon former Lac Mégantic Fire Chief and JC Morin former President of MD-UN, to discuss the disaster of Lac Mégantic, ten years after the fact. Mark, Denis, and JC left us with an important reminder of the importance of safety and why we go the extra mile, to avoid disasters such as this. The room was very solemn in hearing Denis and JC's recount of this terrible

event, and the effect left on themselves and their teams as well as the Lac Mégantic community. We thank Denis and JC for their courage in presenting, and Mark's desire to recount this important story.

Thursday evening attendees gathered for the last dinner reception of the conference, featuring live entertainment and completing with a bonfire by the lake. Primemax Energy Inc. sponsored two \$1000.000 sponsorships for post-secondary children under the RDC membership umbrella. Congratulations to Davia Graham of Primemax Energy Inc. and Anthony Orfali of Azelis Canada. A special thank you to Primemax for their generous contribution to continuing education. The evening ended by paying tribute to retiring RDC Director, Garry Moore. Garry served on the Board from 2018-2023 and made many contributions to the success of the association during his tenure. Thank you, Garry, for your support and drive to better the association.

The 37th AGM ended successfully in large part due to the sponsors, and the participants who joined us this year. Thank you for bringing your energy, curiosity, and willingness to connect. We look forward to seeing everyone in Ottawa, ON for the 38th Annual General Meeting, to be held at Brookstreet Hotel in Ottawa, ON from May 28th – 30th, 2024.

RDC recognizes the generosity of this year's annual sponsors:

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RDC Chairman (Frank Dempsey of Dempsey Corp.), Vice Chairman (Philip Zerr of Quadra), and President (Catherine Wieckowska) thank Garry Moore of Dempsey Corp. for his time served on the Board of Directors.



RDC | DRC

38TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

May 28 - 30, 2024
Brookstreet Hotel
Ottawa, Ontario



*Featuring Keynote Speaker
Dr. Hayley Wickenheiser*

Company NEWS



DEMPSEY EMPOWERS EMPLOYEES TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Dempsey supports employees by offering volunteer hours allowing them to take action to improve their communities. Employees use the hours to volunteer in capacities such as coaching minor league hockey, donating blood and plasma, volunteering at hospitals and long-term care centers, community spring clean ups, and caring for dogs and cats at the local humane society. The Dempsey Food Canada division Vice-President, Belinda Elysee-Collen, volunteers as a girl guide leader with Girl Guides of Canada. She leads a group of 25 Pathfinders (12-14 years) and Rangers (15-17 years) in Brampton, ON. Practicing leadership and confidence building while having fun with other girls is always on the agenda for her girl guides. Belinda is a Certified Food Scientist (CFS) and has been working in ingredient sales in the Canadian food industry for over 25 years. She combines these two parts of her life when she offers a “Learn to be a food scientist” program for her own group of girl guides, and other groups in the Brampton community.



Recently she presented this program for a group of younger girls in Embers and Guides, with the assistance of her Pathfinders who helped them with the experiments. The event was featured by Girl Guides of Canada on their Instagram page. The Embers and Guides learned how natural colours are affected by pH. For example, a red colour at neutral pH can become pink at low pH, and then turn purple at high pH. They experimented with fibres such as citrus fibre, oat fibre, tara gum and pectin. Most importantly, they learned how much fun it is to play with your food!



She finds that members of the general public are not aware of Food Science as a career option, and therefore she is passionate about teaching food science concepts to young people. She tries to provide them with a foundation of knowledge and skills that are essential for making informed decisions about their health and nutrition, and the environment when learning about reducing food waste. This can help them understand food safety practices (such as handwashing and wearing hair nets) and encourages them to explore various career opportunities related to food.



**IMCD CANADA AWARDED
WITH ECOVADIS PLATINUM
RANKING**

IMCD Canada joins the one percent of chemical companies with an EcoVadis Platinum sustainability rating.

IMCD has a global commitment to making sustainability improvements within our own operations as well as our supplier partners. As a critical member of the country's supply chain, IMCD Canada's commitment to this mindset is a key driver for our business. It is more evident than ever with our latest industry accolade – the EcoVadis Platinum sustainability rating. IMCD Canada is now among the 1% of more than 100,000 companies in 175 countries assessed worldwide to earn this recognition.

This is IMCD Canada's first EcoVadis Platinum sustainability rating. The leap to platinum from silver in the previous year shows our company's engagement to adopt a sustainability mindset and improve actions in the four non-financial

Company NEWS



management systems: Environment, Labour and Human Rights, Ethics and Sustainable Procurement.

IMCD Canada looks forward to embracing this commitment in the years ahead and maintaining platinum status to support our partners and the communities where we operate.

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**NACHURS ALPINE
SOLUTIONS EXPANDS
SPECIALTY CHEMICAL
PRESENCE WITH NEWLY
CREATED DIVISION**

Nachurs Alpine Solutions® (NAS), a division of Wilbur-Ellis, is pleased to announce the formation of NASi Global Chemicals & Ingredients within NAS. Leveraging Wilbur-Ellis strategic sourcing capabilities, NASi Global Chemicals & Ingredients offers a wide range of chemical offerings to the industrial, energy, and agricultural raw material markets. Wilbur-Ellis has over 100+ years of experience sourcing materials and is highly respected in the agricultural and chemical markets.

"NASi Global Chemicals & Ingredients was formed," according to Jeff Barnes, President of NAS, "to provide additional emphasis on helping our customers find reliable, secure alternate sources for their raw materials and ingredients." According to Bob Hopp, Vice President of Global Chemicals & Ingredients, "We handle the entire logistics piece from performing supplier audits, to assuring quality suppliers, to getting it to our customer doorstep."

NASi Global Chemicals & Ingredients is part of the NAS Industrial (NASi) specialty chemical business suite including NASi Industrial Chemicals, NASi Energy, and NASi Transportation & Mining. NASi Global Chemicals & Ingredients further augments NASi with additional chemicals and sources beyond our traditional manufacturing base in ammonium, calcium, and potassium-based chemistries targeting the industrial markets.



**POLARIS STRENGTHENS
IMPACT ACROSS COMPANY
AND BEYOND**

Polaris has been dedicating many of our efforts toward making a positive difference across our company, industry and community. With our Human Resources, technologies and fleet recently gaining high honours and our team continuously coming together to give back, we are immensely proud to see that our initiatives are benefitting people both on the inside and outside of our operations.

For a 6th consecutive year, Polaris was named a Top Fleet Employer, once again earning us the prestigious title as an Employer of Distinction. With the strong belief that to deliver quality services, we need to take care of the people delivering them, we've implemented HR practices that promote our team's wellbeing and success, so they feel fulfilled in all they do for us.

Through our tech division, NorthStar Digital Solutions (NDS), we have been developing solutions to enhance processes across our company and industry. In December 2022, we celebrated the news of NDS' ranking on the Top 100 Tech Startup list – closely following the launch of FR8Focus, their custom-built application that is alleviating pain points in the LTL and TL markets.

In addition to investing in our technologies, we've continued expanding our service capabilities and capacity by growing our diverse fleet. From beginning with just one truck, we are thrilled to once again be named on the annual list of Canada's Top 100 Largest For-Hire Fleets.

While elevating our ways of doing business, we've remained committed to protecting and uplifting vulnerable people in our communities. We proudly support various charities including Ernestine's, a safe haven where women and youth of all genders escaping abuse and violence can rebuild their lives. Among our

Company NEWS

many fundraisers, we recently held an Easter Bake Sale with all proceeds going toward The Mississauga Food Bank.

As we aim to attract future professionals to enter our industry, our leadership personally attended events hosted by the University of Guelph Lang School of Business & Economics. Polaris CTO, Dave Brajkovich represented Polaris and NDS as a New Horizons speaker, sharing insights on how students can reach their full potential after graduation. For their Sales Pitch Competition, President & CEO, Dave Cox took on the role as a judge and provided helpful feedback and professional advice.

Dave Cox reflects, "The energy has been at an all-time high at Polaris with everyone working together to take care of our customers, coworkers, and those in need," He adds, "I am so grateful for the talented people on our team who are continuously raising the bar, going the extra mile and making a difference in our community."



**QUADRA NAMED ONE OF
CANADA'S BEST MANAGED
COMPANIES FOR 20TH
CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

Quadra is delighted to announce that it has retained its Platinum status as one of Canada's Best Managed Companies for the 20th consecutive year. The prestigious award recognizes the best-in-class of Canadian-owned and managed companies that demonstrate strong business performance and innovative management practices. This respected recognition is a testament to Quadra's unwavering commitment to its

people-focused approach and core values. These values have been the driving force behind its growth and success for over 45 years.

Quadra, a privately held family business, has built a reputation as a leader in Chemical and Ingredients distribution solutions. Its strong relationships, built on trust, expertise, and reliability, have been instrumental in its continued success.

Quadra has a long-standing reputation for providing top-quality chemical and ingredients solutions to a diverse range of industries. With a customer-centric approach and an extensive portfolio of high-quality products, Quadra has become a trusted partner for companies across Canada and into the U.S. The esteemed recognition of once again being among Canada's Best Managed Companies highlights Quadra's dedication to excellence and leadership in the industry.

"At Quadra, our people are an integral part of our success," states Anne Marie Infilise, president of Quadra. "From our employees to our suppliers, customers, and communities, we put people first, so that together, we can reimagine the possibilities. We are honored to be recognized as one of Canada's Best Managed Companies for the 20th consecutive year. This achievement reflects our unwavering commitment to our people-focused philosophy, our core values, and our long-term strategic focus."

About Quadra

Quadra is a leading chemicals and ingredients distributor. With a rich history spanning over 45 years, Quadra is recognized for its unwavering commitment to upholding its values and people-focused approach, fostering strong relationships, and delivering innovative business solutions. As a recipient of the



We are proud to be a
Best Managed Company for 20 years!

We could not have done it without our
key partners and amazing team! Thank You!



Company NEWS

prestigious Canada's Best Managed Companies award for the 20th consecutive year, Quadra is dedicated to excellence in serving its employees, valued customers, suppliers and communities.



TANDET WINS SAFETY AWARD FROM NATIONAL TANK TRUCK CARRIERS

Tandet has been recognized, again, by the National Tank Truck Carriers for having a winning focus on safety. Tandet's transport group - comprised of four separate tank carrier operations that deliver chemicals, food oils, hot products, plastics, flour, sugar, alcohols, waste and motor oils - services their local Ontario and Manitoba markets, and most jurisdictions across North America, utilizing liquid (stainless steel, FRP, steel and aluminum) and dry bulk (pressure/vacuum) tanks.

For calendar 2022, Tandet has been awarded the GRAND award for Operational safety and the GRAND award for Personnel safety in Class 5 (with over 19M miles driven) in the annual NTTC competition. This is the first time Tandet has participated in the competition for this Class and as the winner in Class 5 now has the privilege of competing for the prestigious Heil Trophy for the Harvison Division, which puts the best performing large tank carriers in Classes 1 to 5 in competition for the Heil Trophy Award which will be present this May in Boston.

Tandet Logistics was the first Canadian based carrier to be awarded the Heil Trophy in 2018, for the Sutherland division (Classes 6 to 10), for which they were in Class 7 (at just over 8M miles). Tandet's recognition is a result of a comprehensive and diligent program of safety that focuses drivers, customers and suppliers on safe operations - both on the road and in the plant - when driving, loading, off-loading and washing liquid and dry bulk materials. Safety is a Core Value for the Tandet Group across all their operations.



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AAXIA

The Aaxia mission over the past two decades has been to fundamentally shift the paradigm of how the Chemical Industry thinks about Risk Management and Insurance. How? Through Aaxia's uniquely focused Chemical Industry expertise. The chemical manufacturing and distribution business is a complex and highly specialized industry - a fact which is typically problematic for general-purpose insurance agencies (and ultimately, their clients).

In marked contrast, Aaxia's singular focus and core belief is that the specialized nature of risk in the Chemical Industry calls for NOTHING LESS than the dedication of full-time Chemical Risk and Insurance experts.

Aaxia has seen that Chemical Industry operators deserve far more than the generalized hit-and-miss guesswork common to the business model of standard insurance agencies. From the inception of Aaxia's formation, Aaxia has been at the forefront of specialized coverage development for the chemical industry and in the process gained recognition as THE full-time risk and insurance resource to the chemical industry. Our distinction in the insurance business is that we are acknowledged by chemical associations as the first (and sole) "CHEMICALS ONLY" insurance agency in North America.

We are your full-time resource! We have insurance brokering and underwriting teams in Canada, the United States and in Latin America. Let us show you how our experience and dedication to the chemical industry can create unique, cost-effective coverage solutions for your chemical operation and help you and your team manage exposure and cost of risk with confidence!

Larry J. Knight is the co-founder and President of Aaxia Chemical Insurance Services.

Specialties: Chemical Industry Insurance Coverage
Loss Control Engineering
Chemical Industry Risk Management Solutions
Environmental coverage analysis and placement



KALIUM SOLUTIONS

Kalium Solutions is a Canadian regulatory affairs consulting firms primarily operating in the Canadian, U.S. and European markets. With more than 300 clients from different sectors to its credit, Kalium Solution can help you be compliant and secure in all your activities from manufacturing to distribution. Often involved in contentious cases, Kalium has successfully built a multidisciplinary team over the years to help with matters related to WHMIS, TDG, safe storage, VOC calculations, CCCR and/or CPSC compliant labels, etc.

Do you need training? Here are a few specialized trainings offered at Kalium: safe storage, hazardous spill management, WHMIS and CCCR classification. We also offer the mandatory WHMIS, TDG in all three modes (ground, sea and air) as well as transborder (CFR 49).

Founder and CEO, Brigitte Charpentier, who has more than 30 years of experience in laws and regulations and who used to be at the head of the Regulatory Affairs department at SICO explains, "In an ever-changing regulatory landscape coupled with a labour shortage, I noticed that many businesses find difficult to remain compliant in every aspect of chemicals management. Therefore, Kalium can assist them with a wide range of professional services and training. In addition, we have developed software's that keeps pace with the reg changes, and it is backed by a team of chemists with field experience. This solution is available with a monthly subscription plan at a very competitive cost!"

The software can offer the following:

- Safety data sheets (SDS) and bilingual WHMIS/Hazcom labels authoring and SDS hosting
- Be either autonomous or be assisted with CAS/raw materials data validated by Kalium's team.
- Gather all your documents in one place and access it from everywhere (Mobile-friendly)
- Prevent dangerous incompatible substance's reactions
- Compliant workplace labels with integrated QR code
- Quick and easy access to the SDSs from the QR code's scan
- CCCR/CPSC compliant labels' generation
- Complete checklist reports available for your record keeping

To book a demo or to know more about Kalium Solutions, visit www.kaliumsolutions.com today!

Introducing New AFFILIATE



Q.C.R.A.

Over the past 36 years, Q.C.R.A. developed significant expertise to assist clients in the Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology, Natural products, Cosmetics, Medical Device, Fine/Specialty Chemicals, Food, Controlled Substances/Narcotics/Precursors and Import/Distribution industries. This allows us to hit the ground running and deliver unmatched value.

As a result of our industry focus and in-depth expertise, we can help you tackle your most complex and specialized challenges, assist you in developing strategic and operational plans, improve the efficiency of your internal operations, and put the company on a proactive and sustainable compliance track.

Q.C.R.A. provides subject matter experts who are familiar with your business challenges and can help you achieve your quality compliance goals. Our experts will identify quality standards that fit the situation based on an understanding of the subject area.

As a life-sciences consulting company, our business is to ensure that your company does not experience regulatory setbacks or delays caused by complications. Further to that, we will guide your organization through successful quality audits, manufacturing inspections, and product submissions.

Q.C.R.A. will work with you to manage and improve the caliber of your business, its goods, and services. Our company offers assistance in creating Quality Teams and a Strategic Quality Plan. In order to evaluate the efficiency of your processes, systems, and structures, we can assist you in implementing benchmarking as well as analyze and optimize your key business processes.

We are a team of experts in science, regulatory, and quality who protect your investment in research and development, intellectual property and business operations. It is important to us that your business and your employees are well taken care of. That's how we build trusted relationships with our clients.

Nariné Demirchian
President of Q.C.R.A.



THE CO-OPERATORS

Co-operators has partnered with Responsible Distribution Canada to offer its members & employees great rates on home and auto insurance.

As a co-operative, we put people like you first. Our business decisions are guided by our co-operative principles, so the need for profitability is balanced with the needs of our members and their communities. Making people a priority and taking a long-term view of business decisions makes Co-operators fundamentally different from most insurance companies. As financial services co-operative, we are rooted in the idea that together, we are stronger, safer, and more resilient.

Our goal is to help RDC members & employees save money on the insurance they need to protect what matters most to them.

We look forward to supporting you for many years to come.

Find out how much you can save today!

Give us a call: 1-800-387-1963 or get a quote: coopgroup.ca



CHEMFORMATION

**CHEMFORMATION IS
A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY
BUSINESS**

Chemformation is a one-of-a-kind, online resource for fast and accurate data on chemical products and ingredients covering a variety of industries. The database brings together information all in one place, making chemical products and related information easily searchable.

Chemformation was founded by Joe Broome, an industry veteran with decades of experience in chemical distribution. After helping thousands of customers answer a range of chemical ingredient questions, Joe realized a need for a tool like Chemformation. Started in 2008, Chemformation remains the best online resource to deliver comprehensive and up-to-date chemical information. Family-owned and -operated, Chemformation is led by Joe and his children, Paul Broome and Holly Myers, all of whom work to provide the highest level of service to the chemical industry.

Employee NEWS



Dempsey Introduces New Talent and Roles

Dempsey is pleased to announce that Joseph Carpenter, has been appointed to the new role of VP, Risk, Compliance & ESG. Joseph will work directly with the leadership team to provide strategic advice and counsel as the business accelerates its journey to become more focused on sustainability and ESG more broadly. Joseph began his career at Dempsey over 20 years ago as a member of our Regulatory and Compliance group, before overseeing Operations during a period of dynamic growth. By anchoring sustainability with Joseph, we're ensuring we continue to evolve and accelerate our ESG journey.

Dempsey is also pleased to welcome as of May 1st Garry Moore, to the role of VP, Operations Innovation. Garry is an accomplished operations and technology executive with over 25 years of experience leading and managing technology and logistics across multiple industries, including the military. He has also demonstrated exceptional dedication to RDC for many years and served recently as the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors. We are thrilled to have someone with his exceptional skills and knowledge joining our team.

We are confident that these exciting changes will enable our Company to continue to innovate and grow as a leading specialty chemical additive and food ingredient distributor.

Obituary - Larry Kapitan

On December 18th, 2022, our Chemical Distribution family lost one of its senior members and a man with many years of chemical distribution industry experience during arguably the "Golden Years" of the industry.

Larry Kapitan passed away in his Kitchener home, at the age of 77 after a stoic and courageous battle with cancer.

"Kap" as he was referred to by those close to him, was born in Fort Francis, Ontario and spent time growing up in Montreal prior to eventually settling down to a life in Kitchener.

Larry started his relationship in the chemical distribution business in the mid 1970's working as a salesman in Toronto for Kingsley & Keith Canada. When offered the opportunity to join his former colleagues from K&K in the young Quadra Chemicals, Larry grabbed it and was instrumental in building the industrial business base for Quadra in Ontario until 1991. At that point, with the building of the first Quadra facility in Burlington, Ontario, Larry agreed to use his hands on skills to



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come off the road and take on the role of Operations Manager. Through 1995 Larry helped establish Quadra's distribution structure in Southern Ontario but with changes coming Larry decided to move on. He joined Flo Chem Ltd in Guelph,



Employee NEWS

Ontario until the opportunity arose to rejoin some ex-Quadra colleagues at Cambrian Chemicals (Solutions) and take over the role of Operations Manager until his retirement in 2010.

Larry was actively involved in the old CACD until his retirement. He was known and respected by many.

Those who knew Larry as a colleague and friend will never forget his unique sense of humour, his absolute loyalty, his idiosyncratic issues (love of labelling everything in sight) but mainly his gentle, caring and warm character.

Larry was never overly motivated by personal ambition but was always driven to do his best at the task he was given and especially with taking care of his colleagues. Larry was a great co-worker, a team player and will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

Larry is survived by his wife Sandy, his four sons, two grandchildren and a litany of friends who knew and loved him from his days at Quadra and Cambrian and in the industry as a whole.

Obituary- Eno Agro

On December 30th the Chemical Distribution family lost one of the veteran builders of the industry with the passing of Eno Agro at 75 years of age.

Although Eno was best remembered as one of the founding

partners of Tempo Chemicals back in 1985, his involvement in the industry went back well before that. Eno earned his experience first at Kingsley & Keith Canada before moving to CiscoChem for a couple of years prior to moving to Quadra Chemicals to expand his experience. He then took the step of

rejoining his old K&K colleague, John Fedwick, in taking the risk to start Tempo.

Eno was pivotal in the growth of Tempo as he brought a new focus to the industry with a business that was directed to the personal care/cosmetic customers. This did not exist in 1985 and Tempo, and Eno, were trailblazers.

During his time as President of Tempo, Eno was joined and supported by his brothers Joe and Carlo. In 2012 Tempo was acquired by DeWolf Chemical (subsequently KODA, Azelis). Following Tempo Eno established and controlled Whincorp for seven years before he closed shop and retired.

Eno was a huge sports fan and loved his Blue Jays and Cleveland Browns. He was a legacy in the industry to be proud of. Eno leaves behind his wife Debbie, three sons and two grandchildren.



Save the Date

RDC'S SEMI ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 26TH, 2023

Oakville Conference Centre


RDC | DRC

WINNING WITH ADVOCACY

A LESSON FROM THE PLANET VULCAN

By: Joe Caponio, Regional Director | RDC

Advocacy. It is the act of adding one's voice, to others, in support of a cause. The underlining premise is that there is strength in numbers and that more voices are better than one, or a few. It brings to mind an ancient Vulcan saying, promulgated by one of the most logical, sci-fi characters of the 70's and 80's. "Logic dictates that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few...or the one." (Mr. Spock, *Wrath of Khan*, 1982). Die-hard Star Trek fans (aka Trekkies) will of course immediately counter this sentiment stating that Captain James Tiberius Kirk saw things a little differently and would later prove Spock wrong by saving his life in *The Search for Spock*, 1984. My sincere apologies. I digress.

But even with Spock's advice, the fruits of advocacy can sometimes be difficult to find, and one might say they occur rather infrequently. As one can appreciate, there can be many reasons for this. For the record, lack of effort is usually not one of them. Larger undertakings, as in the case of legislative changes, require more time and effort. Advocacy on such initiatives will typically lengthen these timelines. Another reason could be that one of the parties is obstinate and unwilling to listen to others. Fortunately for RDC's members, specifically those concerned with Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) regulations, this isn't the case with the current team working within the TDG Directorate. From top to bottom thus far, this group has demonstrated a strong culture of inclusion through consultation, one that is rooted in the desire to try and get things right for the good of many and a shared appreciation that accepts that while more time consuming and difficult, consultation yields better results in the end.

This bodes well for our advocacy efforts because the reality is, in the highly regulated world of chemical and ingredient supply chains, government doesn't always "get it right". But let us also admit that it can be a daunting task to try and do so. After all, we're talking about a small group of individuals trying to write regulations that will inevitably affect many. And let's face it, whatever the result, they know right from the beginning that they're not going to please everyone. That's where the Directorate's recognition of the value and benefits derived from advocacy, through active consultation, comes into play. Whether it's a single person representing a large group of companies, individuals adding their voices to industry associations, or multiple associations working collaboratively. Adding our collective voices to a singular cause does reap benefits.

One of the most notable, recent success stories resulting from our advocacy efforts came in December 2022 with Transport Canada's (TC) proposed introduction of Part 17 Registration into TDG regulations. Most will recognize this initiative by its acronym CID, aka the Client Identification Database. It began almost two years ago and was TDG Directorate's response to an internal audit that suggested they needed to better identify and understand the TDG regulated community. To address this finding, the Directorate proposed legislation that would require anyone that handled, offered, transported, or imported (HOTI) dangerous goods in Canada to register their sites. Two registrations would be required, initial (first time) and recurring (annual). Furthermore, two sets of information were envisioned, Basic and Extended. Basic information would be required for ANY site handling dangerous goods. Extended information would be applicable to any



site that HOTI'd an ERAP commodity or a UN recognized High Hazard Dangerous Good (HHDG).

As one would think, Basic registration for both initial and recurring registrations, was easier to complete. It required the identification of each site, by company name, address, site contact information, the classes of dangerous goods handled, and the shipping modes used. Unfortunately, several RDC members would have been required to provide Extended in addition to Basic information since many hold ERAP's and/or handle one of the many commodities listed as a UN HHDG. The UN list is, after all, quite extensive. Extended information would have required companies to provide Transport Canada with a complete list of ERAP and UN HHDG's, by TDG proper shipping name, the estimated annual volumes, units of measure and number of consignments expected for each commodity, at each site, all in addition to Basic information. Furthermore, the list would have to be updated on an annual basis or more frequently as commodities were added or removed from a site.

During both the consultation process and testing sessions, RDC targeted both verbal feedback and written communication into one unified message, i.e. remove the requirement for Extended information. RDC was one of the few that explicitly took this approach and provided detailed cost estimates showing that Transport Canada had greatly underestimated time and effort needed to complete both initial registration and annual updates for Extended information. In both instances, RDC provided estimates that showed more than double the effort would be needed to complete these activities. But perhaps more

importantly, we petitioned that the provision of Extended information would not advance the safe and secure transportation of dangerous goods.

Thankfully, on December 9, 2022, Transport Canada agreed with our feedback and announced several, significant changes to the Part 17 Registration regulations. The most notable change was repealing the requirement to provide Extended information. This was a significant win for RDC members and for industry at large. The administrative burden related to the provision of Extended information would have been significant and would have also strained Transport Canada's TDG resources. Providing Basic information is a huge win-win for both industry and TC. It not only helps Transport Canada better manage its risk assessment activities, by prioritizing its on-site inspection activities, but it will help identify an estimated 20,000 + previously unknown sites that were conducting TDG related activities.

So there you have it. Proof that advocacy works when you have two parties that are truly focused on getting things right. Providing concise, constructive feedback however is key. And though most time, the "wins" may be small, sometimes they can be substantial as was in the case for Part 17. "The needs of the many..." prevailed in this instance. Spock would be proud, although his half-Vulcan side would never permit such a display. As for Kirk, he too would be smiling. After all, Trekkies will remember that he learned this lesson "the hard way" with the loss, albeit temporary, of his own life. Unfortunately, it took an alternate timeline to get him to come to his senses, Into Darkness, 2013, but again, I digress! Live long and prosper.

RDC'S ADVOCACY JOURNEY IS BLOOMING

Advocacy is like gardening. You have to plant the seeds of what you want the outcome to be, work in the dirt and hopefully watch your efforts grow into something pleasant. In the early days, RDC / CACD advocacy was handled by committee volunteers. At that time, the two main government files we were engaged in were Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) and Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS). Any other items we rode on the coattails of our colleagues in the chemical manufacturing industry. With the membership growth in other areas such as personal care and food, the government's endless changes to regulations both federal and provincial, the association had to keep abreast of the changes to help you comply.

The Association really got into advocacy and government relations in 2011. The Government changed how they wanted to be communicated with. RDC was fortunate to have a solid volunteer base to help, however if we wanted meaningful relations, we

needed to start to dig in the soil and get our hands dirty.

That's exactly what we did. We leveraged existing relationships where possible and began to plant the seeds of getting to know the players (which included allied associations and government agencies) and at times offering a helping hand, giving support or educating on issues of concern to our industry.

RDC knew from the beginning that there would be a germination period, these relationships need time to cultivate. Advocacy needs attention and nurturing like your garden, slow and carefully. Over time, RDC began to see the good results, such as:

- WHMIS: RDC was successful in getting a delay for compliance with revised regulations updating SDSs, saving members thousands of dollars and reducing the heavy burden for resource management.

- Transport: Training part 6 adjustments made, which helped members' workload.
- Health Canada: Members were able to benefit when the government needed hand sanitizers and disinfectants during the pandemic.
- Rail: Advocated during labour disruptions and blockades, ensuring the distribution sector's voice was heard.
- Rail: Working hard to ensure competition in an environment that doesn't have competitors in the normal sense. Asking for interswitching to be extended in distance, time and geography. A 5-year pilot with 500 kilometre radius and cover all of Canada. File is ongoing.
- Marine Policies: During the pandemic, it was apparent that there was no competition in the marine shipping industry with three alliances. RDC worked hard to make the government see the injustice of the situation. This work continues.
- Ports: As with rail labour, we have pushed hard for no disruptions by making the supply chain essential services in all aspects. Hoping to end issues in the future.
- Trucking: Working in partnership with colleagues in trucking to ensure goods were able to cross the border and drivers had decent washrooms during Covid and moving forward.

- Working with provinces on various files that matter to the industry. Inter-provincial trade and transportation has been one area RDC is pushing hard on.

As all good green thumbs know, it takes time and care to be able to sit back and watch your garden grow right before your eyes. RDC joined other groups to have impactful advocacy while working alone at times. With your help and guidance and the power of multi-association government relations, we are sure to see the successes blossom.

Please be ready when we reach out to you for letter writing and media campaigns to enlighten others and be a voice that needs to be heard.

What does success look like? It looks like what we've been doing. From saving members resources (time, labour and money) to recognition for Responsible Distribution®. Afterall, a garden is not one and done. You have to keep doing the same activities year after year. Most importantly, keep ahead of the weeds. That's a great result in the long run!



VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND CONCENTRATION LIMITS FOR CERTAIN PRODUCTS REGULATIONS

In January 2022, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) published the Volatile Organic Compound Concentration Limits for Certain Products Regulations to limit the volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from certain products imported into or manufactured in Canada.

The regulations set maximum VOC concentrations and maximum emission potentials for approximately 130 product categories and sub-categories. The limits will come into effect on January 1, 2024, except for disinfectants, which will come into effect on January 1, 2025.

WHICH VOCS ARE REGULATED?

For regulatory purposes, Volatile Organic Compounds are defined as compounds that participate in atmospheric photochemical reactions, and are not excluded under section 65 of Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA).

WHO IS SUBJECT TO THE REGULATIONS?

Any person or company who imports into or manufactures in Canada a product that is listed in Schedules 1 or 2 of the regulations.

WHAT PRODUCTS ARE REGULATED?

Regulated products include any product used in households and by institutional, industrial and commercial consumers that can

be found in the product categories and sub-categories defined in Schedules 1 and 2 of the regulations. These include:

- personal care products
- automotive and household maintenance products
- adhesives, adhesive removers, sealants and caulks
- other miscellaneous products.

KEY ASPECTS OF THE REGULATIONS

Applies to the **manufacture** or **import** of products listed in Schedules 1 and 2. There is no restriction on sale; products imported into or manufactured in Canada prior to the coming into effect dates have no limit on sell-through.

Record keeping requirements:

- Records and supporting documents must be:
- kept at the person's principal place of business in Canada or any other place in Canada where they can be inspected.
- Retained for at least five years after the day on which they are made.

Products must be labeled with the date of manufacture. Other labeling may be required under a permit.

No general reporting requirements unless a company chooses to participate in the Compliance Unit Trading System.



ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE OPTIONS

Companies that are not able to meet regulatory requirements for concentration limits or emission potentials may consider if they could qualify for one of the following three alternative compliance options.

Permit – Technical or economic non-feasibility

This permit provides temporary relief from requirements of the regulations on the concentration or emissions potential when the regulatory limits come into effect. When applying for this permit, manufacturers and importers must provide evidence that they cannot technically or economically meet the requirements for their product.

This temporary permit is valid up to 2 years and can be renewed only once for up to another two years.

Permit – Products whose use results in lower VOC emissions

This permit allows innovative products to exceed the VOC concentration limits if, because of product design, formulation, delivery or other factors, they emit less total VOCs than a comparable compliant product when used according to the manufacturer's written instructions.

This permit is valid up to 4 years and has no limit on renewal.

VOC compliance unit trading system

This option allows companies to exceed the concentration limit for a product by balancing their emissions with their other products that have VOC amounts below the limits (averaging) or by purchasing compliance units from other companies (trading).

Allows companies to:

- Generate compliance units for products reformulated to reduce VOCs below the regulatory limits
- Transfer unused compliance units to other companies
- Balance emissions from products that exceed regulatory limits using compliance units
- Permits are needed for products that exceed regulatory limits

Information related to the three alternative compliance options including application and reporting forms can be found on the VOC Alternative Compliance Options webpage.

How to stay informed

For information on the regulations, please visit the VOCs in Certain Products Webpage.

To read the regulations, please visit the Volatile Organic Compound Concentration Limits for Certain Products Regulations Canadian Environmental Protection Act Registry.

Questions can be directed to:
Products Division
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Email: Produits-Products@ec.gc.ca

THE OPTIMISM OF SPRING



By: Aaislinn Chalecki, CIRP | Vice Chair, Regulatory Affairs Committee | Chemsynergy Inc.

It is springtime and with that there are a lot of changes in the air. It's time for spring cleaning and planting and it is no different on whether this is needed in our personal lives or our companies. Along with the plants in our gardens, there are fraudulent companies popping up all over Canada and the USA.

These companies are mimicking legitimate companies and purchasing, or attempting to purchase, not only nefarious/toxic chemicals but also chemicals that are short in other countries. It makes it more difficult than ever for those in our industry that are responsible for vetting trade references, credit references and companies themselves.

These fraudulent companies are so much more sophisticated than we give them credit for and are a real problem in the industry. Gone are the days where you can check references with an email. Now you need to call, sometimes twice, along with obtaining phone numbers outside the information provided, check and double check not only for the new potential customers but also for the references provided. It's not only difficult from an internal standpoint but the legitimate customers, understandably, are frustrated too. It feels like you are trying to start a new business opportunity in a position of distrust and how can that flourish?

On the regulatory and Responsible Distribution side of the industry we do not want to be seen as the anti-sales, in fact, we are VERY pro sales (we know where our paycheque comes from too), however, we need to do what is best for our company. That's why we need to check not only the new customers but any new information from our current customers. Oh, your banking information has changed, has it? Hmm, I see a new ship-to on your most recent purchase order. Huh, so and so is no longer my contact?

It is so easy for these fraudulent companies to copy and paste a signature and hope that it gets through our defences. The more sophisticated fraudsters have what seem to be legitimate email domains and websites which means that we must go the extra step and check other websites like whois.com to verify. They have people who answer the phone the first time and then they disconnect the line (hence the second phone call mentioned above). We would love to just trust the new customer and I hope that someday in the future we can. We are trying to move forward with the optimism of spring while keeping our eyes wide open.

So, spring cleaning does not just apply to you as an individual, take the time this spring and clean up your system and files and really delve deep into your Responsible Distribution so you can have the best rest of your year possible.



WHMB WORKING OVERTIME TO KEEP INDUSTRY INFORMED

By: Tamara Angelis | Regulatory & Government Affairs Specialist, RDC

Even though spring is in the air, the individuals at the Workplace Hazardous Materials Bureau (WHMB) of the Consumer and Hazardous Products Safety Directorate haven't taken any time to smell flowers. The WHMB have been working overtime to inform industry on the updates to the GHS 7th & 8th edition of the Hazardous Products Regulations (HPR). They have evidenced this by hosting many stakeholder meetings along with the most recent two (2) day workshop held at the end of May. There are a number of updates and changes to be aware of, some of which I will outline and summarize in this article. I fully understand WHMIS is not a FUN topic, but it is an important and necessary one for our industry. A courtesy caution - This article is a bit more technical than usual and may be better suited for your regulatory department... don't say I didn't warn you!

The amendments to the Hazardous Products Regulations were released December 15, 2022, to start the 3 year transition period and published in the Canada Gazette Part 2 on January 4, 2023. There are anticipated benefits from these changes, which include improved classification and testing of hazardous chemicals, providing more safety information on labels and SDS, as well as the controversial "one label" and "one SDS" per hazardous product to meet criteria between the US Hazard Communication Standard and Canada's Health and safety framework. Currently it should be noted that the labels and your SDS sheets for each product need to either comply with the former HPR regulations or the new HPR regulations, it can not be a combination or hybrid of the two, until the end of the general transition period, December 15, 2025, when full compliance with the new regulations is required.

Speaking of the US OSHA Hazard Communication standard, at the time of the writing of this article, the final rule has been delayed and apparently has not yet gone to the White House for review. At this point we are unsure of where it stands or the timing of the update.

Another topic of discussion in the industry has been the proposed removal of the Consumer Product exclusion under the HPA. If this exclusion is removed, it would require suppliers of consumer based hazardous products for use in a workplace to communicate and provide workers and employers with hazard and safety information required under the HPA and the Hazardous Products Regulations (HPR). This would also mean that any hazardous product in the workplace would need to have an SDS available and a label that complies with the HPR. It is understood that not every hazardous product will need an updated label as it may already comply with the amended HPR. It should also be noted that it is up to the supplier to ensure the new label fully covers the previous label and meets all requirements of the HPR.

There was a question raised at one of the WHMIS workshops I attended, "If a North American SDS complies with the 7th and 8th revised editions of the GHS, will it be in compliance with the HPR?". The answer to that question was not as straight forward. There are many nuances within the HPR and HPA so simply complying with just the 7th & 8th GHS may not be sufficient. Suppliers selling or importing hazardous products intended for use in the workplace must ensure they are in full compliance with the HPA and HPR, and it is their responsibility to do so.

There are a number of impacts from the HPR Amendments on industry, one of which is some changes to the information requirements on the Safety Data Sheets (SDS's) regarding concentrations. In the previous HPR, prescribed concentration ranges were allowed on SDS's if the ingredient is withheld under CBI; however, under the amendment, the use of narrower concentration ranges which fall within one of the prescribed ranges is now permitted. Another change is in Section 3 of an SDS which identifies the hazardous ingredients contained in a product. Due to the amendments, a mixture at concentrations above the relevant cut-off levels are now required to be disclosed in section 3 of the SDS even if they do not contribute to the classification of the mixture of a hazardous product.

The WHMB has communicated some of their future initiatives, one of which is the restart of the HPA (Hazardous Products Assessments) Program with the hope to publish five (5) HSA's a year, after publishing seven (7) this year. If you are unsure what an HSA is, they are technical documents produced by Health Canada as educational information regarding how a substance is classified by the Hazardous Products Act (HPA) and Regulations (HPR). Another initiative the WHMB communicated is updating the HPR technical guidance doc and technical decision trees to reflect the changes of the HPR as well as updating the online claim for exemptions under HMIRA application form. We will keep our ears to the ground and let you know once we have more information on the timing of these initiatives.

It's been a busy spring in the hazardous products regulatory regime and it's only going to get busier. Occasionally we need to stop, smell the flowers, and enjoy some sunshine. To help you do just that and help you keep up to date on the regulatory front, why not sign up to the RDC regulatory newsletter? It has weekly updates on regulatory changes and open consultations, so you don't need to worry about missing a thing.

AN INDUSTRY IN BLOOM: TWO KEY FACTORS TO WATCH FOR IN SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION



By: Josh Kellier
Programs Integration Coordinator, RDC

Climate action continues to increase momentum towards the global commitment of the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C and below 2°C compared with pre-industrial levels. Canada has joined over 120 countries in committing to be net-zero emissions by 2050, including all other G7 nations (United Kingdom, United States, Germany, Italy, France, and Japan), this is supported by the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act. In the chemical and ingredient distribution industry, key factors to watch in sustainability and climate action include global governance of plastics and clean fuel standards (Clean Fuel Regulations).

99% of chemical additives are derived from fossil fuels, making reducing fossil fuel resources in production of plastics a key factor in climate action, and for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Stockholm Convention regulate 128 of 3200 chemicals of potential concern in plastics through the chemical phase of the plastics life cycle. Additionally, around 6000 chemicals used in plastics lack hazard data.

The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS) published a study in March 2023 with recommendations for the global governance of plastics and associated chemicals. Addressing the full life cycle of plastics, from the sourcing/extraction phase to the dematerialization phase. The development of international sustainability criteria for plastics and associated chemicals to increase transparency and traceability across the value-chain for plastics products, environmental and safety performance through product/material redesign and enhance human and environmental health. The

study also recommended the development of a global approach for identifying, addressing, and providing transparency for chemicals of concern in plastics, including a “grouping-of-chemicals” approach. This “grouping of chemicals” is to avoid regrettable substitution and combining hazard and exposure data to assess risk. In Canada, these recommendations are aligned with Health Canada’s approach to addressing PFAS. The Draft State of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) report released in May 2023 addresses PFAS in a class approach; the report proposed to conclude that the class of PFAS meets one or more of the criteria set out in section 64 of CEPA. Therefore, the global governance of plastics and the recommendations for addressing governance gaps consistent with the Secretariat of the BRS are key factors to watch as regulatory frameworks develop internationally and domestically to deal with plastics chemicals of concern.

For clean fuel standards, G7 nations have confirmed their commitment to a highly decarbonized road sector by 2030, including the promotion of sustainable carbon neutral fuels. In Canada, the Clean Fuel Regulations are designed to incentivize innovation and adoption of clean technologies and expand the use of low carbon intensity fuels. The regulations require liquid fossil fuel primary suppliers (producers and importers) to reduce the carbon intensity of the gasoline and diesel they produce and sell in Canada. The reduction requirement is set at 3.5gCO₂e/MJ and will begin for primary suppliers in July 2023, it will increase by 1.5gCO₂e/MJ every compliance period to 2030 for a total of reduction of 14 gCO₂e/MJ from 2016 intensity levels. The Clean Fuel Regulations have established a credit market, each credit



represents a life cycle emissions reduction of one tonne of CO₂e. At least 5% of the volume of a primary supplier's pool of gasoline and 2% of their pool of diesel must be displaced by an equivalent volume of a gasoline/diesel replacement for each compliance period. Compliance credits are created based on three categories. Compliance Category 1 includes undertaking projects that reduce the lifecycle carbon intensity of liquid fossil fuels. Compliance Category 2 includes supplying low carbon fuels. Compliance Category 3 includes supplying fuel or energy to advanced vehicle technology. The Government of Canada further supports credit creation through the Investment Tax Credit for Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage.

The Clean Fuel Regulations aim to influence transportation energy trends in Canada and increase zero-emission vehicle sales. These are key factors to watch as Canada and the industry continue the momentum in climate action and sustainability reporting.

In summary, key factors in the chemical and ingredient distribution industry include the global governance of plastics and clean fuel standards. The governance of plastics encompasses addressing the full life cycle of plastics, developing international sustainability criteria, and establishing a global approach for identifying and addressing chemicals of concern. These factors align with efforts to reduce fossil fuel resources in plastic production and promote environmental and safety performance.

The Clean Fuel Regulations in Canada incentivize innovation, technology adoption, and the use of low carbon intensity fuels.

The regulations impose reduction requirements on liquid fossil fuel primary suppliers and establish a credit market to encourage emissions reductions. These regulations play a significant role in influencing transportation energy trends and promoting the adoption of zero-emission vehicles.

As regulatory frameworks continue to develop internationally and domestically, the global governance of plastics and the implementation of clean fuel standards will remain key factors to watch in the pursuit of climate action and sustainability reporting.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



LEARN, SHARE & GROW WITH RDC

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This magazine is mailed to over 3000 contacts. Most of the recipients are employees of our member and affiliate companies. We currently have approximately 200 engaged committee members or volunteers. So where are the other 2800 representatives? We want to hear from you. We want you involved because there are plenty of benefits to both you and your company.

RDC has always prioritized membership engagement. While the number of companies is important to us, the number of volunteers involved is heavily favoured because we are a community-based organization. The association is stronger and more relevant, with more people engaged.

The same can be said of your membership. To get the most out of your commitment to RDC, **get involved**. My predecessor used the analogy that joining RDC is like joining a hockey team. You can pay your fees, sign up, and have your name on the roster, but you'll never improve as a player, if you don't show up to practices or games. RDC is an excellent way to learn, grow, and meet new colleagues in the industry. Over the years, we have witnessed countless business collaborations, life-long friendships, and professional development of **everyone** involved in the RDC network. It's a remarkable community. I challenge anyone who is not involved, to reach out to someone who is, and ask them if they see value in their participation. I bet the response will be a resounding YES.

I had lunch with a Committee Chair recently and I asked her what benefits she sees from belonging to RDC and more specifically, a committee. She instantly responded with connectivity to others in similar roles or experiences, support of a knowledgeable network, and resources that help both professionally and personally. Beyond that, she said that the association gave her access to government, opportunities, and new friendships.

RDC's 2022-2025 strategic vision includes our continued commitment to reaching more employees of member and affiliate companies, with an emphasis on demographic representation. We want to reach all of you, from coast to coast. To kick this off, we have reinstated the regional chapters. The Western Chapter,

which is now led by Jessica Cain of GFL, met in March for the first time since the pandemic. For companies with representatives in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Territories, consider sending your team members. The Chapters tackle local issues and address matters that are specifically geared towards their region. Similarly, the Chapter previously known as the Montreal Chapter has been modernized to include all of Quebec and appropriately re-named to the Quebec Chapter. This was the first objective of the newly appointed Chair, Simon Roy of Bourret Transport. We look forward to hosting the Quebec Chapter in the Fall. Keep a look out for the meeting details.

Our committee chairs do a lot of the heavy lifting on behalf of the chemical supply chain. One of the GREATS is retiring from industry and as such, will be stepping down from his long-time position as Code Committee Chair. Bernard Cook of Brenntag Canada, and our Responsible Distribution champion will be retiring in the Fall. We are forever indebted to the countless contributions that Bernie gave to RDC. He was instrumental in multiple Code adoptions, he was the recipient of the Chairman's award, and he was the industry's representative for many important relationships, including the RCMP, Chlorine Institute, and CERCA. Bernie has left a mark on our industry, at the association, and on many of our hearts (he's probably rolling his eyes at this comment but it's the truth, B-Man!). On behalf of RDC's members and board, thank you very much, Bernie. Your Responsible Distribution leadership has been instrumental in the success of RDC, and we are grateful to you.

So, to the remaining 2800 contacts on the Chemunicator mailing list, please contact us and ask how you can learn, share, and grow with us. Committees offer a very high ROTI (return on time investment), however, there are other groups or initiatives that you can join as well. To quote a classic, Summer road trip song from the Eagles, "there is plenty of room at the Association. Any time of year. You can find it here".

Have a wonderful (and safe) Summer,

Catherine



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