

**Additional information sought from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) by the Committee Secretariat**

1. The Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management Standard (IChEMS) establishes nationally consistent standards for managing industrial chemicals.
  - a. The IChEMS categorises industrial chemicals in one of seven schedules based on their risk to the environment, and assigns measures for introduction, safe use and disposal.
  - b. Tighter standards are applied to activities that involve higher risk chemicals, including prohibitions and restrictions where necessary.
2. The IChEMS is designed to efficiently translate environmental hazard and exposure information in AICIS risk assessments into on-the-ground risk management approaches.
  - a. Regulatory adoption of IChEMS standards will provide comparable protections across Australia, greater consistency for business, and a national approach to dealing with chemicals agreed globally as requiring management.
3. When making a standard, the Minister must comply with the *Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Principles 2022* ([www.legislation.gov.au/F2022L01436/latest/text](http://www.legislation.gov.au/F2022L01436/latest/text)).
  - a. The principles prescribe the risk characteristics for each schedule. For example, chemicals listed in Schedule 7 must be persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic, or likely to cause serious or irreversible harm to the environment; and must not have an essential use in Australia.
  - b. The principles require chemicals listed in Schedule 7 to be prohibited.
4. The *Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021* ([www.legislation.gov.au/C2021A00027/latest/text](http://www.legislation.gov.au/C2021A00027/latest/text)) provides the Minister with discretion to specify one or more risk management measures.
  - a. Schedule 7 requirements (prohibition) can apply to articles if the Minister considers it appropriate.
  - b. To date all Schedule 7 decisions have specified that the import, export and manufacture of the chemical (whether on its own or in mixtures or in articles) are prohibited.
  - c. This means that when prohibition applies, importers cannot bring in ready-made finished products that contain the substance.
  - d. All Schedule 7 decisions to date have allowed for continued used of articles that are already in the market before commencement of the standard.
5. Further information is available on our website: IChEMS general FAQs, ([www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/ichems-general-faq.pdf](http://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/ichems-general-faq.pdf)); Key elements of a standard ([www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/key-elements-of-a-standard.pdf](http://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/key-elements-of-a-standard.pdf)); and Glossary of IChEMS terms ([www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/glossary-of-ichems-terms.pdf](http://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/glossary-of-ichems-terms.pdf)).