



PRIO- a tool that facilitate for industry to practice precaution

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A non toxic environment- the challenge for the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate

- *The environment must be free from man-made or extracted compounds and metals that represent a threat to human health or biological diversity.*
- *The overall goal is that, one generation from now, the major environmental problems currently facing us will have been solved.*

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PRIO is a web-based tool intended to be used to preventively reduce risks to human health and the environment from chemicals. PRIO replaces the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate's Observation (OBS) list.

The aim of PRIO is to facilitate in the assessment of health and environmental risks of chemicals so that people who work as environmental managers, purchasers and product developers can identify the need for risk reduction. To achieve this PRIO provides a guide for decision-making that can be used in setting risk reduction priorities.

The target groups for PRIO are primarily Swedish actors but also include chemical suppliers to Sweden in other countries. PRIO also provides a source of knowledge for environmental and health inspectors, environmental auditors, risk analysts and those who in some other way can influence the use and handling of chemicals

The recommendations on which chemicals are prioritised for risk reduction measures are based on the environmental quality objective "A non-toxic environment" adopted by the Swedish parliament, work towards sustainable development and the current proposal for the new EU chemicals legislation. Throughout PRIO reference is made to Swedish legislation and other Swedish considerations.

Linked to PRIO are a number of environmental and health criteria for the substances to be prioritised in the risk reduction work, as well as a database containing examples of such substances.

PRIO allows users to:

- search for substances and obtain information on properties hazardous to the environment and health
- obtain information on prioritised health and environmental properties
- identify substances contained in chemically characterised substance groups and product types
- obtain help in developing routines for purchasing, product development, risk management etc.

PRIO can provide help in preparing for the EU's new chemicals legislation and in the work towards sustainable development.

The Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate has produced PRIO. The views of chemical users and suppliers sectors and other authorities have been incorporated during the development of this web-based tool.

[Find in PRIO](#)

Photo: Thomas Henriksen

PRIO allows the user to:

- Search for substances
- Obtain information on prioritised health and environmental properties
- Obtain help in developing routines for purchasing, product development and risk management

Use of PRIO in your profession

Professional roles:

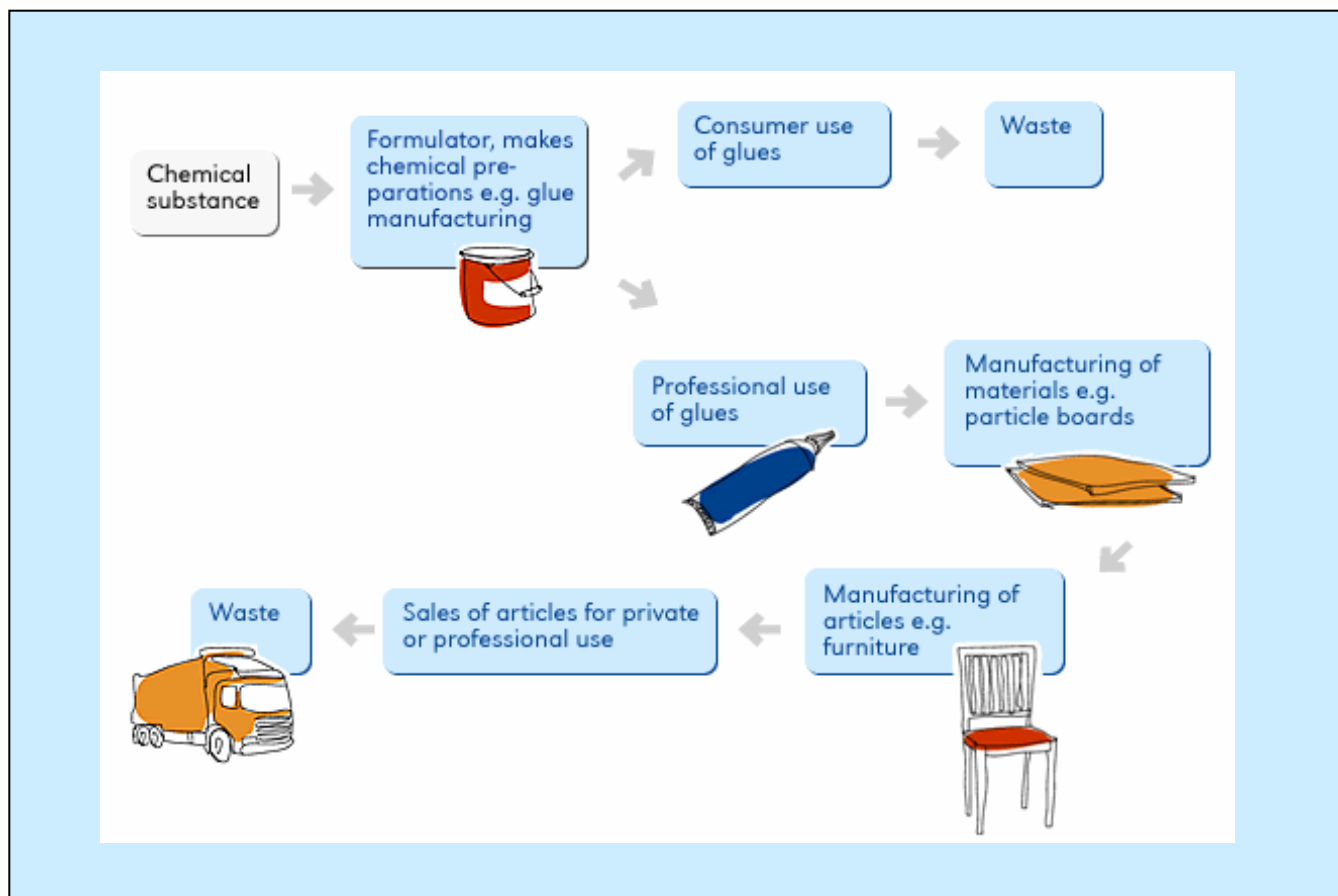
- Environmental manager
- Purchasing
- Product design and development
- Production and working environment

Sectors / Organisations

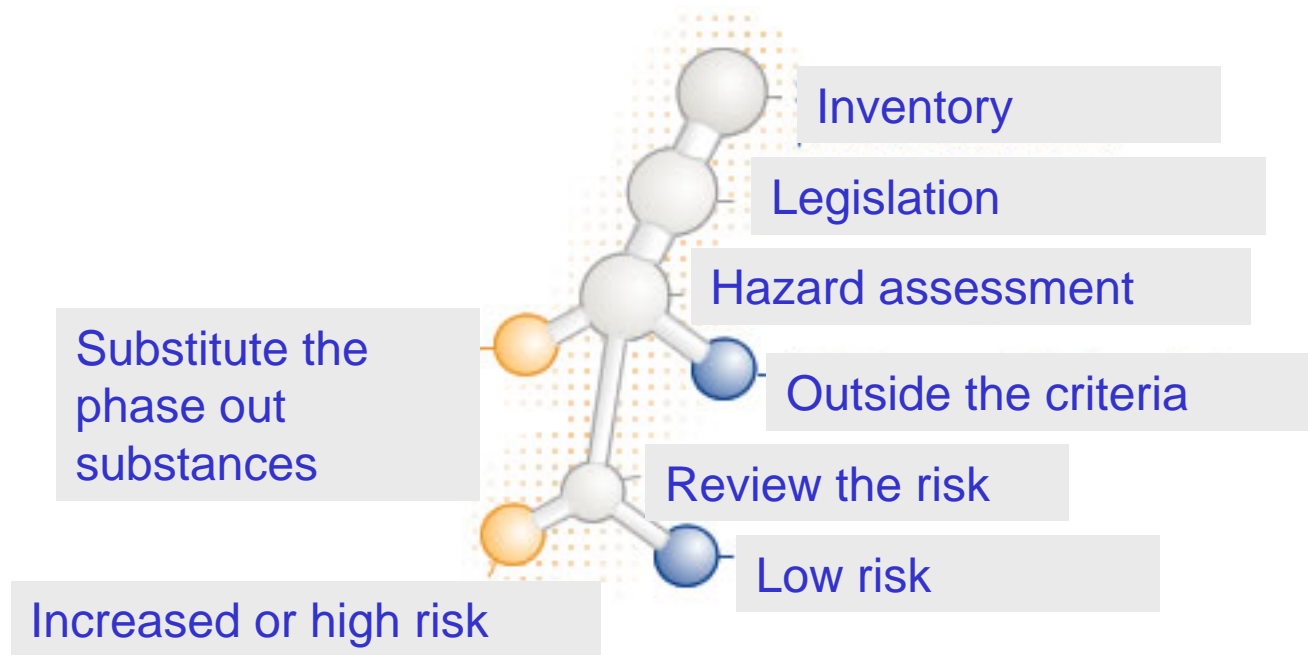
- Supervisory authorities
- Suppliers of chemicals
- Ecolabelling organisations
- Certification bodies / environmental auditors
- Banks/insurance companies
- Recycling companies

Use of PRIO in your profession

Good environmental performance results in better quality



A step by step model



To use PRIO you need to have done your homework



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Welcome to the PRIO database

Last updated:
2006-05-04[+](#) Search for Substance Name/CAS/EG...[-](#) Search on hazardous properties:

Phase-out criteria

 CMR (Categori 1 och 2): Carcinogenic Mutagenic Toxic to reproduction PBT/vPvB Particularly hazardous metals: Cadmium (Cd) Mercury (Hg) Lead (Pb) Endocrine disrupter Ozone-depleting substances

Priority risk reduction criteria

 Very high acute toxicity Allergenic High chronic toxicity Mutagenic (Category 3) Environmentally hazardous,
long-term effects Potential PBT/vPvB

Match criteria:

 AND OR[-](#) Search on substance group or product type:Substance group: Product type: [+](#) Limit the search...

The database

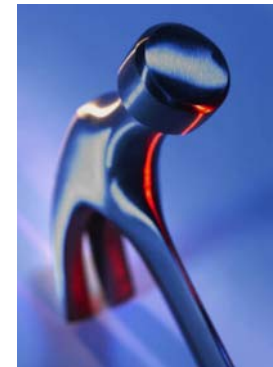
- 4000 substances
- Two levels of prioritization with different messages for action
- Phase-out substances
- Transparency

A diverse user group



Experiences from the development of PRIO

- Different from working with a report
- Picture the target group- who and why?
- Have a clear aim
- Stakeholder involvement early in the process
- Find a test group of non-experts
- Balance between scientific accuracy and getting the message through



Experiences from marketing and education of PRIO

- Secure resources for marketing and education
- Keep It Simple!
- Pros and cons with a web based tool
- The contacts with industry is a way for the authority to learn more about how industry work with precaution activities
- Difficult to predict how the tool will be used



The responsibility is always with the company
-PRIO is a guide for your decision-





Conclusions

- Important to involve the end user
- PRIO makes a difference
- A project that never ends



Next step

- Continuously development
- Focus on specific target groups
- Improve the linkage between substances, material, articles to facilitate for articles producers and importers in their precautionary activities related to substances in articles

