

# **REACH Annex XVII Restrictions; The Challenges of Enforcement and Analysis**

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# Chemicals, Pollution and Cancer (UK)

- ➔ Annual NHS costs for cancer services are £5 billion
- ➔ ‘Pollution and chemicals in our environment account for **~3% of all cancers.**’
- ➔ Approx. **£150 million** chemical / pollution cancer expenditure each year.

# The Lasting Effects of Chemicals in the Environment

- Today we are still living with the effects of contamination from chemicals which were phased out many years ago.
- A 'Cocktail Effect' of chemicals is being created by a variety of chemicals entering the bloodstream and tissues.
- Recent Studies have estimated the health costs of exposure to endocrine disruptors at between £113bn-£195bn

# The Chemical Compliance Team

## ➔ What we do

➔ REACH

➔ POPs

➔ PCBs

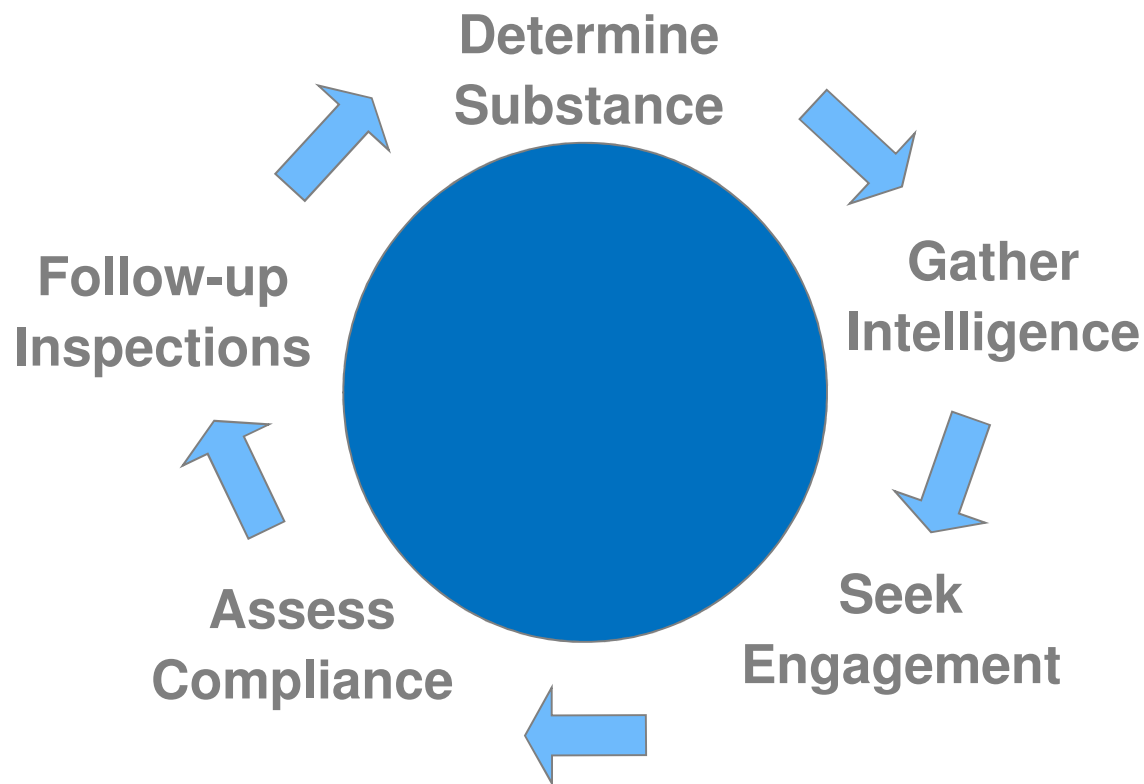
➔ F-gas and ODS

➔ Chemical Source Control

# CCT Campaign Approach

- ➔ Desktop Research
- ➔ Targeting
- ➔ Engagement
- ➔ Assess Compliance
- ➔ Follow- up including enforcement

# Enforcing Annex XVII Restrictions



# Challenges of Enforcing Annex XVII Restrictions

## ➔ Mercury in measuring devices

➔ Historically ideal substance for measuring devices

➔ Toxic and persistent

➔ Amendment to restriction

- Exemption for thermometers required to perform tests to specific standards
- Difficulties monitoring exempt uses



# Challenges of Enforcing Annex XVII Restrictions

- Lead carbonates and lead sulphates in paint products
- Historically popular due to their quick-drying properties, resistance to corrosion and durability.
- Poisonous



- Restriction limits the use of lead-based paints to the restoration of historic buildings, monuments and fine works of art



# Challenges of Analysis

- ➔ Issues with recommended analytical methods.
- ➔ Limited laboratories with accredited methodology - unaccredited testing methods.
- ➔ No suitable analytical methodology.

# Challenges of Analysis - Examples

➔ PBDEs in Plastic Pipes



➔ PVC Shower Curtains



# Successes

- ⇒ Disposal of over 31,000 non-compliant fireworks - 25kg of HCB.
- ⇒ Successful prosecution – 1st in Europe.
- ⇒ Registration ~310,000 pieces of previously unaccounted potentially PCB contaminated equipment.
- ⇒ Destruction of 315kg of redundant Lindane products.
- ⇒ Removal of ~192 mercury products from sale.

# Successes

- Investigated 273 companies for compliance with the F-gas Regulations.
- Removal of 80 ODS products from sale.
- An estimated 607.1 grams of TBT is potentially released from plastic pipes on houses direct to watercourses in England and Wales each year.
- Analysis of prison effluent has shown concentrations of chemicals of national concern that are still being emitted in quantities that potentially breach the Environmental Quality Standards.



**Thank you**