Alternatives Assessments: Principles and Process

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Why Alternatives Assessments?

Focus is on solutions-oriented action

Designed to identify options that are safer, effective and affordable

Facilitate decision making in the face of uncertainty

Goal is to avoid regrettable substitutes

Accommodate the goals, criteria and limitations of specific scenarios
The Commons Principles for Alternatives Assessment

- The principles are designed to guide a process for well informed decision making that supports successful:
  - Phase out of hazardous products,
  - Phase in of safer substitutions, and
  - Elimination of hazardous chemicals where possible.
The Commons Principles for Alternatives Assessment

1. Reduce Hazard
2. Minimize Exposure
3. Use Best Available Information
4. Require Disclosure and Transparency
5. Resolve Trade-Offs
6. Take Action
Chemical Hazard Assessment – The HP Perspective

• Faster and easier to complete
  – Narrow, well-defined endpoints
  – Science-based
  – Facilitates relatively quick assessments

• Increasingly used by regulatory bodies
  – Useful as an indicator of future restriction
  – Aligns business with regulatory process

Information from a presentation at a Green Materials symposium made by Helen Holder of Hewlett-Packard on 23 March 2011
IC2 Resource Guide for Alternatives Assessment – *It’s Modular*!

- Hazard
- Performance
- Cost and Availability
- Exposure
- Materials Management
- Social Impact
- Life cycle
Modules Provide Flexibility
Example: Performance

Level 1 – Basic
• Qualitative information readily available from manufacturers and other easily-accessible sources

Level 2 – Extended
• Quantitative information of existing data reviewed by technical experts

Level 3 – Comprehensive
• Quantitative information based upon results of specified tests that have been reviewed and validated by technical experts
Decision-Making Frameworks

- **Sequential**
- **Simultaneous**
- **Hybrid**
  - Conduct initial screen
  - Assess main criteria categories sequentially
  - Look at remaining categories simultaneously

Preferred Options

- Hazard
- Performance
- Cost/Availability

Preferred Options

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Prefered Options

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