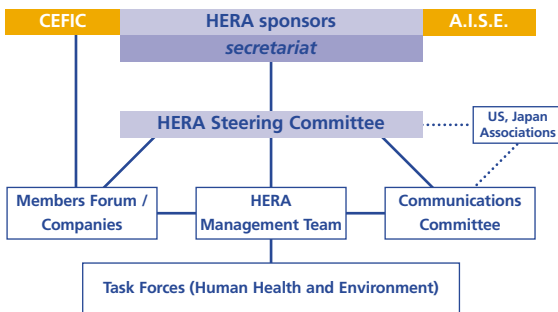


■ ■ The HERA structure

HERA is a large and complex project, requiring a substantial working structure to ensure that the necessary knowledge and experience can be brought together as described in the following chart:



■ ■ Who is involved?

The HERA project is sponsored by two industry associations, namely CEFC (with its relevant sector groups) and A.I.S.E.. The companies affiliated to these associations produce the chemical ingredients on one side, and formulate the finished products on the other. Hence they are vital in providing the necessary hazard data on the ingredients, the consumer exposure scenarios for the products, and the expertise to make the risk assessments. HERA is also forging close links with the sister associations of A.I.S.E. and CEFC in Japan and the USA.

Companies and associations involved in the HERA project have committed themselves to an efficient development of the project by agreeing to contribute to the methodology, helping to select the substances to be studied providing the hazard and exposure information on human health and the environment, talking to stakeholders and finally, producing and publishing the final HERA assessments.

■ ■ The HERA principles

- I HERA is committed to **partnership** between Supplier and Formulator Companies and their representative groups;
- II HERA can only succeed fully if it develops an **open dialogue with stakeholders** eg regulatory scientists and interested European organisations;
- III **Transparency** in all its activities is essential. It includes the risk assessment procedures, agreed data-sets, justification for data selection, reasons for over-riding some standard elements of procedures such as those from the Technical Guidance Document for risk assessment of new and existing chemicals in Europe;
- IV **No preconceptions exist** of the outcome of the risk assessments. The results will be allowed to speak for themselves;
- V Above all, HERA is a commitment to a **sound scientific basis** to risk assessment and to the use of a tiered ('step-sequence') approach to understanding the behaviour of chemicals during the use and disposal phase of household cleaning products.

For more information:

Visit the HERA website on: www.heraproject.com
(as from March 2001)

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Human and Environmental Risk Assessment
on ingredients of household cleaning products

A joint European initiative between



www.aise-net.org



www.cefic.org



Human and Environmental Risk Assessment
on ingredients of household cleaning products

The HERA (Human and Environmental Risk Assessment) project is a European voluntary initiative launched in 1999 by the following:

A.I.S.E. (*International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products*), representing the formulators and manufacturers of such products, and **CEFC** (*European Chemical Industry Council*), representing the suppliers and manufacturers of the raw materials

■ ■ Why is there a need for HERA?

Until recently, safety assessments were carried out on ingredients by the companies and the results remained confidential to them. In today's world, both the regulators and the general public rightly demand greater transparency of the information on the potential risks posed by the ingredients of products used in the home. There is now a call for these data to be published, so that the need for more information if required can be debated in public.

■ ■ Objective of HERA

HERA will provide a common risk assessment framework for the household cleaning products industry, and show that this process will deliver evaluated safety information on the ingredients used in these products in a speedy, effective and transparent way. This process is intended to support a risk-based approach to chemicals legislation in the European Union, and may serve as a pilot for the application of the same process in other sectors and/or geographical areas.



The novelty of HERA is four fold: partnership, common methodology, transparency and speed...

The concept of risk versus hazard:

- The "hazard" associated with a chemical is its intrinsic ability to cause adverse effects.
- The "risk" is the probability that such effects will occur in the various applications in which the chemical will be used and discharged (exposure scenarios).
For a chemical, risk assessment takes into account both the hazards of that chemical and the exposure to it (both human and the environment).

■ The HERA Risk Assessment concept

Industry firmly believes that hazard assessment is **NOT** sufficient to reach conclusions on the safety of chemicals. Only when the hazard is combined with exposure information is it possible to estimate the risk a chemical may pose in any particular use scenario.

HERA will approach risk from a definite viewpoint: it will focus on risks to consumers and the environment resulting solely from the use of these chemicals in household cleaning products when used by the consumer... hence the terminology HERA assessments or focused assessments.

Risk assessments will be conducted on chemicals used in household cleaning products (which are usually the main application of these chemicals). The outcome of the HERA process will be the delivery of risk assessment reports in a standard and practical format.

The HERA risk assessment concept will use common principles and a common language in order to aid communication with Authorities and the general public. Publication of the procedures and the assessments will allow for better transparency.

■ What is the value of HERA?

To business:

Industry believes that it is essential to provide information about the potential risks posed by chemicals, and not just hazards in order to provide its customers and consumers with a balanced perspective and reassurance that industry is behaving responsibly. With this common framework, it will be possible to gather and communicate this information consistently. By bringing together the main data holders (CEFIC companies) and experts in the products and how they are used (A.I.S.E. companies), industry expects to speed up the process and deepen the general understanding of the scientific basis of risk assessment.

To regulators and the general public:

Under current legislation, companies carry out assessments on their products, often using individual standards. HERA differs in providing a common industry response to a society which increasingly demands that industry be more transparent in sharing its data and decision-making processes. Data will be made available to the public by various means, the internet being an important one. With a speedy and efficient delivery of information, HERA should also contribute to the refinement of a risk-based approach for chemicals legislation in Europe, and possibly other regions of the world.

■ How does HERA relate to other initiatives?

The need for HERA was triggered by the reviews of chemical management policy in the EU and elsewhere such as the USA. It is the view of industry and academia that hazard data should not be considered in isolation, but in a risk perspective by the addition of exposure data. HERA will complement the commitment of the global chemical industry (ICCA-International Council of Chemicals Associations) to collect intrinsic properties and generate initial hazard assessments on 1000 high production volume (HPV) chemicals by the end of the year 2004 (see www.icca-chem.org).

■ Key phases of the project

The HERA project consists of two phases:

Phase I

- Develop methodology for HERA Risk Assessment
objective: scientific, efficient, rapid
- Work on example substances
objective: establish feasibility with industry partners, Authorities and all interested parties.

Phase II

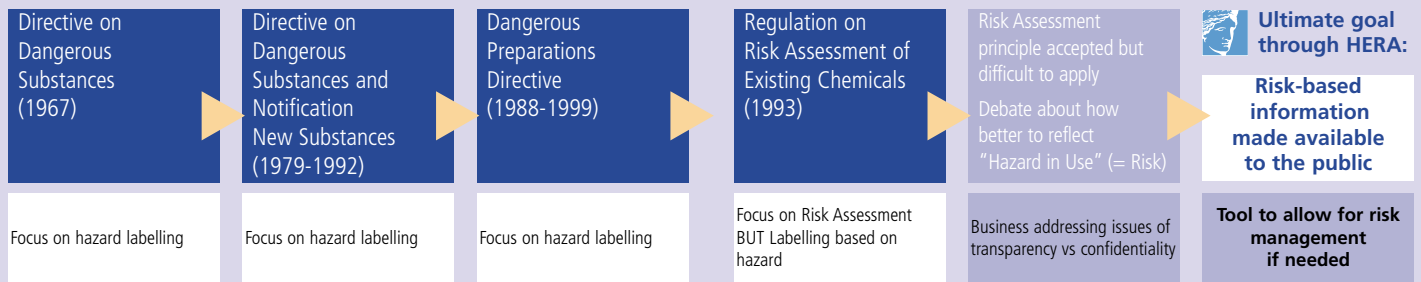
- Apply to a wider range of substances.

■ In dialogue with all interested parties...

HERA will operate transparently. The first priorities have been to gain consensus on the procedures within the supplier and formulator companies sponsoring the project, and to complete the assessments on three pilot chemicals. After internal industry peer review, the methodology, first results and various stages of the project will be discussed with experts in science – regulators and academia – as well as representatives of consumer and other non governmental organisations.

How management of chemicals and product safety has evolved in society...

■ Progress of legislation



■ Evolution of the concept of labelling

Operating framework : Companies fully responsible : acting as per legislation and individual company standards