

**LESOTHO CURRENT STATUS OF GLOBALLY
HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND
LABELING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)**

FUTURE PLANS

**CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED WITH REGARDS TO
THE REGULATIONS DEVELOPED IN LESOTHO**

Presentation by: Mr Teboho Mafooa – Ministry of Labour
and Employment - Lesotho



CURRENT STATUS OF GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)

- LESOTHO HAS NOT STARTED WORK ON THE GLOBAL HARMONIZATION OF STANDARDS IN THE AREA OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELING OF CHEMICALS; THERE ARE NO STANDARDS ADOPTED YET.
- IN MOST CASES LESOTHO IMPORT CHEMICALS.
- NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENTS THAT ARE USED FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT DURING HANDLING, TRANSPORTATION AND USE OF CHEMICALS IN THE COUNTRY. THE LEGISLATION INSTRUMENTS THAT CAN BE RECALLED ARE:



1. LABOUR CODE (CHEMICAL SAFETY) REGULATIONS 2003

- THIS IS CONSIDERED MOST RELEVANT LEGISLATION ON CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT IN THE MANNER THAT ITS REQUIREMENTS OF CLASSIFICATION, LABELING AND COMMUNICATION ELEMENTS ARE WELL STIPULATED.
- ACCORDING TO THIS CODE, TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS IS BASED ON THE UNITED NATIONS REGULATIONS.
- AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CODE IS DONE BY THE LABOUR INSPECTORS

2. ENVIRONMENTAL ACT 2008 – SECTION 81

3. THERE IS ALSO A BILL ON CHEMICAL AND PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT



- ADDITIONALLY, THE “**LESOTHO DECENT WORK COUNTRY PROGRAMME 2010 – 2015**” IS CURRENTLY RUNNING.
- THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE (ILO) PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO A MULTI-FACETED APPROACH, INCLUDING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE VERTICAL INTEGRATION, DIVERSIFYING MARKETS, ENHANCEMENT OF PRODUCTION, AND ENSURING COMPLIANCE AT HIGH LEVELS WITH LABOUR AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF THE TEXTILE AND FOOTWEAR INDUSTRIES.
- THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAMME IS BASED ON A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS/MINISTRIES OUTSIDE THE TRADITIONAL ILO CONSTITUENTS AS WELL AS UN SYSTEM IN LESOTHO.



FUTURE PLANS

- THE LESOTHO CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT CAPACITY ASSESSMENT WAS ADOPTED IN THE YEAR 2010. ;
- AS A RESULT, OUT OF IT , ONE OF THE LONG TERM PRIORITIES IS TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEMS OF LABELING ALL FORMS OF CHEMICALS IN THE COUNTRY THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF GHS; SEE TABLE 2 OVERLEAF:-



Table 1: Priority issues and partnerships (Short Term Issues)

| | # | PRIORITY ISSUE | REF | RANKING (1, 2 OR 3) | MAIN ROLE PLAYER | PARTNERS | PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVE |
|-------------------|-----|---|------|---------------------|------------------|--|---|
| SHORT TERM | SP1 | Uncoordinated influx of pesticide donations and trading | - | 1 | NES, MAFS, MoHSW | MoFEP (Customs), , NGOs, MTICM | Control and monitor the importation of pesticides and set national needs |
| | SP2 | Limited awareness of the harmful effects of chemicals | LP2 | 1 | NES | MoET, MoHSW, NGOs, MAFS | Enhance level of awareness about the harmful effects of diverse chemicals among communities |
| | SP3 | Lack of national poison centers and hotline (NATIONAL HOTLINE) | LP5 | 1 | MoHSW | NES, MoAFS, NGOs, MTICM | Reduce incidences and fatalities of poisoning from chemicals |
| | SP4 | Lack of proper storage facilities for chemicals (EXISTING FACILITIES) | LP6 | 1 | NES | MAFS, MoHSW, MTICM, Private Sector | Develop proper storage facilities for chemicals |
| | SP5 | Lack of proper storage facilities for chemicals wastes (stockpiles) (EXISTING) | LP7 | 1 | NES | MAFS, MoHSW, MTICM, Private Sector, MoLG | Develop proper storage facilities for chemical wastes |
| | SP6 | Poor labelling – Local and International (LABELLING OF LOCAL PRODUCTS) | LP8 | 1 | NES, MoLE, MoHSW | MAFS, MTICM, LNDC, BEDCO | Improve the systems of labelling of all forms of chemicals |
| | SP7 | Application of corrective OSH Measures | - | 2 | MoLE | NES, NGOs, MAFS, MoET, MoHSW | Eradicate occupational hazards as a result of chemical use |
| | SP8 | Lack of necessary chemicals management enforcement mechanisms (INTERMINISTERIAL AGREEMENTS) | LP10 | 3 | NES | All responsible partners | Put in place the necessary enforcement mechanisms to promote the management of chemicals |
| | SP9 | Lack of capacity for safe destruction/disposal of chemicals wastes (DESTRUCTION/DISPOSAL OF WASTES IN APPROPRIATE FACILITIES) | - | 3 | NES | MoLG, MoHSW, MAFS | Enhance the capacity to dispose of chemical wastes |

Source: “Capacity Assessment for the Sound Management of Chemicals and National SAICM implementation - 2010”



Table 2: Priority issues and partnerships (Long Term Issues)

| # | PRIORITY ISSUE | REF | RANKING (1, 2 OR 3) | MAIN ROLE PLAYER | PARTNERS | PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVE | |
|-----------|----------------|--|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| LONG TERM | LP1 | Limited access to information on chemicals – no databases or material safety data sheets | - | 1 | NES | MAFS, MTICM, MoHSW, MoET, BoS | Improve access to data and information on chemicals |
| | LP2 | Limited awareness of the harmful effects of chemicals | SP2 | 1 | NES | MoET, MoHSW, NGOs, MAFS | Enhance level of awareness about the harmful effects of diverse chemicals among communities |
| | LP3 | Lack of necessary legal and institutional frameworks on chemicals management | - | 1 | NES | All responsible partners | Put in place the necessary legal and institutional frameworks on chemicals and sustainable development |
| | LP4 | Lack of knowledge on the proper use of chemicals and associated adverse effects of mismanagement among different categories of users and traders (Home and work) | - | 2 | NES, MoHSW, MoAFS | NGOs, MoET, MTICM | Enhance knowledge on the use of chemicals and advocate for the proper use of them among different categories of users and traders |
| | LP5 | Lack of national poison centers and hotline (NATIONAL POISON CENTER) | SP3 | 2 | MoHSW | NES, MoAFS | Reduce chemical related fatalities |
| | LP6 | Lack of proper storage facilities for chemicals (existing and new facilities) (DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FACILITIES) | SP4 | 2 | NES | MAFS, MoHSW, MTICM, Private Sector | Develop proper storage facilities for chemicals |
| | LP7 | Lack of proper storage facilities for chemicals wastes (stockpiles) (DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FACILITIES) | SP5 | 2 | NES | MAFS, MoHSW, MTICM, Private Sector | Develop proper storage facilities for chemical wastes |
| | LP8 | Poor labelling – Local and International (LABELLING OF INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF GHS) | SP6 | 2 | NES, MoLE, MoHSW | MAFS, MTICM | Improve the systems of labelling of all forms of chemicals |
| | LP9 | No research undertaken on the most effective methods for the management of chemicals in the country | - | 2 | NES, MoET | All responsible partners, Academia (NUL) | To undertake research that shall determine the most effective means of managing chemicals in the country |
| | LP10 | Lack of necessary chemicals management enforcement mechanisms | SP8 | 3 | NES | All responsible partners | Put in place the necessary enforcement mechanisms to promote the management of chemicals |
| | LP11 | Poor domestication/adaptation processes of international conventions and agreements on chemicals | - | 3 | NES | NGOs, MoHSW, MTICM, MAFS | accelerate the domestication of international conventions and agreements through appropriate regulation through national laws |

Source: “Capacity Assessment for the Sound Management of Chemicals and National SAICM Implementation - 2010”

CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED WITH REGARDS TO THE REGULATIONS DEVELOPED IN LESOTHO

1. **THERE IS LACK OF COORDINATION AND LACK OF COMMUNICATION, AT COUNTY LEVEL, AMONG THE IMPLEMENTORS OF REGULATIONS.**

I.E. THERE IS A NOTICEABLE NON-COMPLIANCE WITH LABOUR CODE (CHEMICAL SAFETY) REGULATIONS 2003 THAT IS , IN SOME CASES CHEMICALS USED AT THE FACTORIES ARE NOT CLASSIFIED AND ARE NOT LABELED – THE QUESTION THAT MAY ARISE IS HOW DID THEY GET INTO THE COUNTY WHILE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, MINISTRY OF TRADE AND MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT ARE THERE. WHILE WONDERING YOU WILL FIND OUT THAT SOMEONE THERE ALLOWED THAT WITHOUT CONSIDERING OR NOT BEING AWARE OF OTHER LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS FROM OTHER RELEVANT MINISTRIES.



2. THE SADC TECHNICAL REGULATIONS LIAISON COMMITTEE (SADCTRLC) HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTRY- EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE SOME MOVES DONE TO ACHIEVE THAT, THE PROGRESS IS VERY SLOW. HOWEVER IT IS OBSERVED THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR SENSITIZATION OF STAKEHOLDERS. THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, COOPERATIVES AND MARKETING IS TAKING A LEAD ON THAT MATTER.

3. THERE IS NO NATIONAL STANDARDS BODY; WE ONLY HAVE A NATIONAL FOCAL POINT BEING MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, COOPERATIVES AND MARKETING, THEREFORE THERE IS NO ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING STANDARDS IN THE COUNTRY



REFERENCES:

1. “**Lesotho Decent Work Country Programme**”, 17 May 2010
2. “**Capacity Assessment for the Sound Management of Chemicals and National SAICM Implementation**” - 2010

THANK YOU!

