MUTUAL ACCEPTANCE OF DATA

According to the OECD Council Acts on Mutual Acceptance of Data for the assessment of chemicals (MAD), adhering countries must accept safety test data which have been developed in other countries, using the OECD Test Guidelines and the Principles of Good Laboratory Practice.

Non-tariff barriers to trade are minimized by harmonized policies and instruments, and duplicative testing is avoided, saving governments and industry time and money.

Increasingly non-OECD countries are joining the MAD system, with Argentina, Brazil, India, South Africa, Malaysia and Singapore as full adherents, and Thailand a provisional adherent.

WHY THE OECD EHS PROGRAM MATTERS TO BUSINESS

The OECD Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Program aims to foster international co-operation to ensure the safety of chemicals and chemical products including pesticides, biocides, manufactured nanomaterials, and the products of modern biotechnology, while reducing barriers to trade.

BIAC believes that the specific value added of the core parts of the OECD EHS program lies in its concrete cost-saving effects for industry and government by harmonizing testing and assessment approaches and avoiding duplicative data requirements.

The development of high-quality tools and guidance on technical issues as well as the sharing and mutual assistance among members and non-members should remain the cornerstone of its program of work.

The OECD should continue to play a key role in global discussions to ensure that countries can benefit from the valuable technical guidance and capacity building resource developed by the OECD.

By working together through the OECD, governments and industry save over EUR 150 million annually thanks to avoiding duplicative data requirements.
The BIAC Chemicals Committee brings together over 150 experts from the chemicals, metals, crop protection, biocides and nanotechnology sectors.

Chair
Mr. Jay West
American Chemistry Council
(United States)

Vice Chairs
Mr. William Graham
Croplife
(United States)

Dr. Fumiaki Shono
Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA)
(Japan)

Through the OECD, countries work together with industry in a number of key areas:

Limiting regulatory burden: to share the work load for registering pesticides and biocides and for notifying, registering or evaluating industrial chemicals.

Cooperative testing of selected nanomaterials: to pool expertise and funding to test the human health and environmental safety effects of nanomaterials currently in commerce.

Safety of biotech products: to ensure that the information used in safety assessments is shared, thus contributing to regulatory oversight of products of modern biotechnology.

CHEMICALS INDUSTRY
The chemicals industry is one of the world’s major economic sectors, with sales of approximately USD 5400 billion annually. The global chemicals industry continues to grow steadily each year particularly in the BRIICs.

The output from the chemicals industry is an important input to many other industry sectors and is present in countless products which are part of our everyday lives. The industry is committed to acting responsibly and transparently and in partnership with governments to ensure that its products meet the most demanding safety requirements.

Through BIAC, the chemicals industry is involved in the wide range of OECD activities and contributes its unique perspective and practical experience to the development of policies and programs for testing and assessment.