

A UK Strategy for appropriate control IRGC – Risk Governance 6 July 2006

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Defra's aim in working on nanotechnology

✓ To promote the responsible development, use and fate of deliberately engineered nanoscale materials
(a focus on Frame 1)

We will do this by working to:-

- Ø Protect the environment and human health
- Ø Maximise the potential benefits to society

The Green Line Approach

An evidence based approach looking to develop, in the most rapid manner, the most appropriate method to control deliberately produced free engineered nanoparticles, whilst not hindering progress and competitiveness of UK industry

The Green Line approach in practice

- Industry to develop good practice in manufacture, use and disposal
- Government led research to understand hazard and exposure
- Voluntary Reporting Scheme for industry

Ø Shared responsibility

Good Practice

UK Government pressing industry to develop cross-industry proposals on “good practice”

Ø Manufacture

Ø Use

Ø Disposal

In the UK companies will be inspected against these guidance documents and are expected to comply or exceed



Characterising the potential risks posed by engineered nanoparticles

A first UK Government research report

Research areas

- Metrology
- Exposure
- Mammalian hazard and risk
- Environmental hazard and risk
- Social and ethical

Timetable for UK Research

- Research agreed and to be let ... details soon
- 6 monthly review of evidence
- Over-arching review of approach and all evidence in 2008 with a recommendation to UK Ministers
- International perspective to reduce duplication of effort

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Consultation on a proposed
Voluntary Reporting Scheme for
engineered nanoscale materials

March 2006



Voluntary Reporting Scheme Consultation



Types of data

- Identity of reporter
- Identity and information on nanoscale material
- Physico-chemical properties
- Toxicology and ecotoxicology
- Environmental fate
- Measurement techniques
- Risk management practices

Consultation and review

- Consultation closed on 23rd June 2006
- Consider consultation responses with a view to:
 - Ø Review scheme 6 monthly
 - Ø Scheme runs for 2 years
- All part of the evidence base **supporting** the research

Consultation response

- Predominant agreement to VRS ... but
- Harmonisation of international schemes desired
- Concern over IP and commercially sensitive info
- Research organisations should participate
- Definitions
- Good practice very important

International context

- UK work is to form a national view

BUT

- We are working in a collaborative fashion with EU
- We are working in a collaborative fashion with OECD

Conclusions on the UK Strategy

- Responsible development of nanomaterials throughout the lifecycle
- Appropriate control based on evidence
- Shared responsibility
- *Much is in line with Frame 1 and our priorities are set out here*

More information available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/nanotech-vrs/index.htm

and www.defra.gov.uk/environment/nanotech/index.htm

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