



NEWSLETTER June 2021

Final HAZBREF reports available

The HAZBREF project is now successfully finalised and all reports are ready and available at the project website!

Our team wants to thank all stakeholders for the extremely valuable comments and contribution to the HAZBREF reports and active participation in the various HAZBREF events! This input from stakeholders enabled the successful outputs and interesting discussions during workshops and conferences.

We are also convinced that our joint results will have an impact on future management of chemicals at industrial installations in Europe. The outputs of the project are timely and seem to fall within a favourable political context. The HAZBREF findings are well in line with the goals in the European Green Deal (EGD) and the related 'zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment'. The HAZBREF recommendations for strengthening the focus on chemicals in the BREFs and BAT conclusions are also valuable input to the ongoing IED revision work.

HAZBREF Sector Guidance Reports

We have now published the recommendations for the management of chemicals in the three case sectors, i.e. Textile industry, Surface Treatment of Metals and Plastics and Chemical industry (fertilisers and polymers production).

The guidance for each of these sectors contains information on best practices in chemical management and recommendations on enhancing the permitting process. They also describe potential candidate BATs for the reduction of releases of hazardous substances as input to the BREF preparations in these sectors.

One of our key findings is that there are already numerous references and tools available that can support companies and authorities in implementing the IED and managing chemicals. However, there is no strategic approach for the efficient use of these resources. A compilation of the tools and references that are relevant for the IED permitting steps is presented in the reports.

Links to the Sectoral Guidances published in the series of the Swedish EPA Naturvårdsverket:

- [Sectoral Guidance for Chemicals Management in the Textile Industry](#)
- [Sectoral Guidance for Chemicals Management in the Surface treatment of metals and plastics Industry](#)
- [Sectoral Guidance for Chemicals Management in the Chemical Industry with focus on the production of fertilisers and polymers](#)

HAZBREF policy improvement recommendations

The report *“Method to include information on hazardous and other substances of concern more systematically into BREFs”* is also finalised. The centre of this report is the analysis of the information exchange under the IED, that results in BREFs and corresponding BAT conclusions. This report presents how relevant information on chemicals can be more systematically addressed at the right time during BREF review. Special emphasis is given to possibilities to better use available data on chemicals.

The results of the above report build on and go deeper than the earlier report *“Analysis of the interfaces, links or gaps between the different pieces of EU legislations and marine convention”*. The new report focuses on the main instruments and the types of information that various legal frameworks provide on hazardous substances that can be relevant for BREFs. The work includes our preliminary reflection on whether and how the information in these legal frameworks can be used in the BREF review process. The report also addresses how a better interaction and data flow between the key actors could be established. These two reports will be combined into one single publication in the series of the Finnish Environment Institute. Check out the [HAZBREF project homepage](#) soon!

Outcome from the HAZBREF work on identification of relevant target substances in BREF

The report *“Approaches for a better use of available data to prevent or reduce releases of substances of concern from industrial installations”* analyses how REACH and IED could benefit from each other, act complementary and best interact in a coherent manner to reduce emissions of chemicals to the environment. It describes approaches and tools for assessment of substance properties of concern, presents data sources and provides guidance for substance evaluation, in order to characterise the relevance of substances for BREF reviews and BAT conclusions.

The report specifically looks on availability of substance information in the ECHA database and possibilities to use this data for the BREF processes. One of the challenges we identified is that linking substances to different IED sectors based on the data in other databases cannot be done in a straightforward way as the use descriptions are not accurate enough. The current use descriptor system under REACH should be revised to fit better the use descriptions in IED sector.

The project has also developed an [web-based tool](#) that can support operators and other stakeholders in identification of substances of possible concern and help to ensure safe handling of chemicals. There is still a possibility to provide feedback on the tool for future improvements (Contact e-mail: Nannette.Aust@uba.de).

One of our key findings is that the Safety Data Sheets should be made more readily usable for downstream chemicals users – with improvements, updates and more realistic emission scenarios that reflect different usage conditions and include also worst-case emissions.

HAZBREF circular economy report on promoting non-toxic material cycles

The report *“Promoting non-toxic material cycles – challenges and opportunities in the BREF process”* consists of an analysis of the applicable regulatory framework, HAZBREF case sector examination and conclusions and recommendations.

The study revealed that the provisions of the IED and BREF guidance give the possibility to address Circular Economy aspects in the BREF process to some extent, but this far the promotion has not been systematic in the BREF process. Also, the ongoing IED evaluation can offer an opportunity to refine the BREF guidance and the way the CE aspects are promoted in BREFs. Circulation of waste-based materials between different industrial installations and sectors demands a better connection of upstream and downstream processes. Link to the report:

- [Promoting non-toxic material cycles in the preparation of Best Available Technique Reference Documents \(BREFs\)](#)



Warm thanks for your cooperation!
The HAZBREF Team

More information on the HAZBREF webpage:
www.syke.fi/projects/hazbref

For downloading the HAZBREF reports, tools and guidance visit:
<http://www.syke.fi/projects/hazbref/publications>