# The functional workflow of the Chem HelpDesk is divided into 5 steps:



Step 1: Registered users submit questions to the Chem HelpDesk.





Step 2: Coordinator sorts, edits and submits questions to experts in the field related to each question.



Step 3: Experts submit answers to the Chem HelpDesk.





Coordinator

Step 4: Coordinator verifies and publishes questions and answers to the Chem HelpDesk.





Step 5: All users can view questions and answers, and submit suggestions.





A joint initiative of the Chulabhorn Research Institute (CRI) and



Flammability (red) Reactivity (yellow) Special symbol (white)



# Website

To learn more about Chem HelpDesk, please visit

"www.chemhelpdesk.org"



# Contact us

#### **Chem HelpDesk**

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# Chem HelpDesk

"www.chemhelpdesk.org"

**Strengthening Capabilities for Sound Chemicals Management** 

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# About us

#### **Background of the Chem HelpDesk**

The Regional HelpDesk for Chemical Safety (Chem HelpDesk) was



established as a joint initiative between the World Health Organization Regional Office for South-East Asia (WHO/SEARO) and the Chulabhorn Research Institute (CRI) through the International Centre for Environmental Health and Toxicology (ICEHT), a WHO collaborating center in Bangkok, Thailand.

The aims of the Chem HelpDesk are to address the issue of the

widening gap in the field of chemical safety between developed and developing countries, and to empower countries in the South-East Asia Region to manage the import, manufacture and processing, storage, distribution, transport, use, recycling and disposal of chemicals. This project was initiated in August, 2008.



The Chem HelpDesk is not-for-profit, and through a website will provide cost-free answers to questions submitted by registered users. These answers will be provided by experts in the field who supply technical and scientific advice as part of our Community of Practice (CoP). It is the aim of the Chem HelpDesk to benefit users and to help countries in areas of most need to protect human health through the safe use and management of chemicals.

#### The Chem HelpDesk Website provides a platform for:

- Submitting questions about the safe use and management of chemicals, with answers being provided by experts (this service will initially be available only for registered users, although questions and answers posted onto the site will be viewable by all visitors)
- 2. Finding information related to the safe use and management of chemicals, including:
  - News
  - Related Websites
  - Activities
- Sending suggestions, comments, or queries related to the use of the website by clicking the "Send suggestion" button, or emailing us at "coordinator@chemhelpdesk.org"
- A keyword search of the whole website by clicking the "Search" button

#### **Submitting questions**

The Chem HelpDesk provides answers to questions related to the safe use and management of chemicals, which includes but is not limited to, information in the following categories:

- Toxicology/Ecotoxicology
- International programmes/activities related to chemical safety/chemicals management
- Funding opportunities
- Best practices related to chemical safety/chemicals management
- National and international opportunities for collaboration
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)
- Enhancing sustainability of capacity for chemicals management



### The functional workflow of the Chem HelpDesk

There are four groups of people involved in the process:

- The Chem HelpDesk Coordinator and Executive Secretary act as administrators and maintain the system.
- The Experts provide answers to the questions from the registered users. The Community of Practice is made up of experts from various fields related to the safe use and management of chemicals.
- The Registered Users may submit questions to the Chem HelpDesk on issues related to the safe use and management of chemicals.
- The General Public are able to search for and view questions and answers. They may also submit suggestions for improvement of the Chem HelpDesk. In the early pilot phase, the Chem HelpDesk question and answer service is available to registered users only.



The Chem HelpDesk Weblog