Global Product Strategy (GPS)

What is the Global Product Strategy?
ICCA developed its innovative Global Product Strategy (GPS) to improve product stewardship within the chemical industry and with suppliers and customers throughout the chain of commerce. Along with the Responsible Care® Global Charter, GPS is a cornerstone of ICCA’s contribution to implementing UNEP’S Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

What are ICCA’s GPS goals?
The ultimate goal of GPS is to increase public and stakeholder awareness and confidence that chemicals in commerce are safely managed throughout their lifecycle.

What is product stewardship?
Product stewardship is the industry’s management of the health, safety and environmental aspects of a chemical product throughout its total life cycle. This is a shared responsibility requiring cooperation with suppliers and downstream users.

What are the key components of the GPS?
GPS is a product stewardship program and a great deal more. It includes:

- Guidelines for product stewardship, including ways to make relevant product stewardship information more transparent.
- A tiered process for completing risk characterization and recommending risk management actions for chemicals in commerce.
- Improved product stewardship cooperation with industry groups and companies that are customers and suppliers to the chemical industry.
- Tracking industry performance and reporting to the public.
- Exploration of potential partnerships with intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders to enhance global product stewardship.
- Outreach and dialogue with customers, the public and stakeholders.
- Participation in scientific inquiry to address health, environmental and risk concerns.
- Constructive industry engagement in the public policy process.

How will the GPS be implemented across the globe?
There will be common elements and approaches globally. However, the industry recognizes the need to accommodate national, historical, cultural, regulatory and legal distinctions.

How does the GPS relate to other industry initiatives?
Product stewardship is an important pillar of Responsible Care®. GPS also incorporates other important related initiatives, including implementation of the ICCA Global Chemicals Management Policy, the Long-Range Research Initiative, the High Production Volume chemical testing program, and regional communications activities.

The global chemical industry will be widely valued and supported for its economic, social and environmental contributions to society