

2019-2020 Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) Work Plan: Precursor Chemical Harmonization & Collaborative Science & Technology

Canadian Department: Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Explosives Safety & Security Branch (ESSB)

U.S. Department/Agency: U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Infrastructure Security Division (ISD)

Regulatory Cooperation Statement: ESSB and CISA will work together to promote harmonization of Precursor Chemical Regulations where achievable, and collectively limit impact on commerce.

Work Plan:

Initiative	Desired outcome(s)	Activities	Reporting
<p>1) Joint Research</p> <p>NRCan and CISA will continue collaborative scientific research on Explosive Precursor Chemicals.</p>	<p>It is expected that collaborative scientific results will support regulatory decision making, allowing the U.S. and Canada to base regulation on a common scientific foundation.</p>	<p>Continue NRCan’s Canadian Explosives Research Laboratory (CERL) and CISA joint Precursor Chemical Characterization research amongst other projects (ongoing through 2023)</p>	<p>This effort is ongoing.</p>
	<p>This will increase efficiencies for regulators whilst enhancing public safety and limiting interference with commerce.</p>	<p>ESSB, CERL, and CISA will attend a working meeting in Ottawa (2020)</p>	<p>NRCan and DHS participated in a working meeting in Ottawa 2020-02-20/21. Three DHS members attended.</p>
		<p>Publish final report (2023)</p>	

<p>2) Heighten Outreach to E-Commerce</p> <p>NRCan and CISA will engage E-Commerce vendors and marketplaces that sell or facilitate the sale of Explosive Precursor Chemicals. We will explore opportunities to align controls and mechanisms that require the identification and reporting of suspicious purchases and suspicious attempted purchases.</p>	<p>Increased efficiency for business, as e-commerce companies are made aware of and connected with existing and proposed precursor chemical regulatory programs in Canada and the U.S.</p>	<p>Leverage existing outreach efforts, sharing respective contacts (November 2019)</p>	<p>NRCan shared online retailer contacts with DHS Dec 2019. Led to successful contact with US-based online retailers.</p>
	<p>Increased efficiency for regulators in engaging with multinational companies. Collaborative engagement will result in better business practices and limit interference with commerce.</p>	<p>Discuss joint initiatives and expectations from the E-Commerce community (ongoing)</p>	<p>NRCan and DHS discussed expectations from the E-Commerce community during the working meeting 2020-02-20/21. The initial meetings with Amazon will be separate at Amazon's request.</p>
		<p>Collectively reach out to additional online/web-based retailers and marketplaces (December 2019)</p>	<p>DHS has reached out to Amazon. NRCan has reached out to Amazon. DHS has reached out to EBay.</p>
		<p>Establish and deliver joint U.S.-Canadian meetings with these on-line retailers (December 2020)</p>	<p>NRCan and DHS each met with Amazon in spring 2020.</p> <p>6/17/2020 Update: Planned meeting with EU counterparts and both European and North American online retailers tentatively planned for 29-30 September in Berlin, Germany.</p> <p>DHS has invited NRCan to jointly participate in a meeting with EBay that they will initiate. Dates & locations TBD, likely autumn 2020 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Backup option to accommodate COVID-19 is for a virtual meeting.</p>

<p>3) Collaborative Multinational Stakeholder Engagement</p> <p>NRCan and U.S DHS/CISA will collaboratively engage Stakeholders.</p>	<p>Increased efficiency for businesses</p> <p>Elimination of unfair advantages</p>	<p>Conduct joint stakeholder activities and outreach (ongoing)</p>	
	<p>Increased information sharing between Canada and the U.S.</p> <p>Increased efficiency for regulators</p> <p>Increased efficiency of regulation. As numerous chemicals are traded on both sides of border, it is important to provide regulatory framework and updates to the industry and commerce stakeholders.</p>	<p>Identify key industry events and facilitate introductions and invitations (February 2020)</p>	<p>6/17/2020 Update: Responsible Distribution Canada (RDC) Semi-Annual General Meeting (virtual) has been postponed due to COVID-19, Date: 04/11/2020, but NRCan has invited DHS to participate when rescheduled.</p> <p>6/17/2020: DHS has invited NRCan to the Chemical Security Summit, Atlanta Georgia, which has been postponed until December 2020.</p>
		<p>Facilitate information sharing on respective regulatory regimes with key stakeholder groups (July 2020)</p>	<p>NRCan presented its Explosive Precursor Chemical Regulatory Control Framework & Inspection Program to DHS personnel at the working meeting Feb 2020.</p>

<p>4) Increased Bilateral Exchange</p> <p>NRCan and U.S DHS/CISA will collaboratively engage in a productive bilateral exchange program to increase efficiency.</p>	<p>Establishment of a collaborative goal of enhancing security while minimizing distortions/disruption to the marketplace.</p> <p>Coordinated research efforts for a common goal, regulatory opportunities, increased efficiency, and the avoidance of duplication.</p> <p>Increased information sharing between Canada and the U.S.</p> <p>Increased efficiency for regulators via development of a closer working relationship. NRCan and U.S. DHS/CISA will collaboratively review their regulatory analysis of both key processes and cooperate where practical and achievable.</p>	<p>Enhance expertise and information exchange for respective government scientific subject matter experts via exchange opportunities (2020)</p>	<p>In-person exchanges have been postponed due to COVID-19.</p> <p>DHS and NRCan are scheduling virtual expert exchanges to discuss inspections processes, including best practices for inspections during COVID-19.</p> <p>In the future, DHS is interested in The NRCan Precursor Chemical Inspection Program. DHS would like NRCan to consider allowing US Inspectors the opportunity to shadow a Canadian Precursor Chemical Inspection team. The optimum opportunity would be during a quarterly training wk.</p> <p>DHS has invited NRCan scientists to visit the FBI testing lab (TEDAC) in Huntsville, Alabama, where DHS testing is taking place in, in order to collaborate and exchange with US counterparts.</p>
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	-	Regulator-to-Regulator meetings and associated working groups, both domestically and internationally (multiple 2020)	<p>The May 2020 US-EU Explosives Expert Working Group meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19, and this initiative was put on hold.</p> <p>DHS will pursue other relevant international meetings that could host this as a side-meeting once travel restrictions are lifted. DHS will continue to liaise with the U.S Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA).</p>
		Work collectively to assist each other with harmonized regulatory development decisions (ongoing)	Ongoing. Both DHS and NRCAN are continuously learning about the other's respective programs.
		Map regulatory landscape in respective countries (July 2020)	6/17/2020 Update: U.S. has an initial draft of regulatory security programs in the US that it will share with Canada for feedback on the format and Canadian input.