EMERGENCY, FIRST AID AND ACCIDENTS

- Know the locations and operation of emergency equipment (fire extinguishers, blanket, eye wash stations, and safety showers), emergency phone numbers and emergency exits.

- In case of fire, use the appropriate type of firefighting equipment.

- In case of accident by inhalation, remove casualty to fresh air. Obtain medical attention immediately.

- Seek medical advice immediately if a chemical is ingested and show container or label.

- If chemicals come into contact with your skin or eyes, flush immediately with copious amounts of water or solvent/solution recommended by manufacturer or MSDS for at least 15-20 minutes. Get medical attention if irritation develops and persists.

- In event of a spill of a hazardous chemical, do not wash away into sewers/waterways. Consult the MSDS of the chemical for advice on dealing with chemical spills.

RELEVANT MAURITIAN LEGISLATIONS

- Dangerous Chemicals Control Act (DCCA) 2004
- Environment Protection (Standards for Hazardous Wastes) Regulations 2001
- Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005

PENALTIES UNDER THE DCCA 2004

Any person who contravenes this Act or any regulations made under this Act shall commit an offence and on conviction shall be liable to:

- A fine not exceeding Rs 75,000 and imprisonment not exceeding 2 years {Section 32(2)(a)}
- A fine not exceeding 3 times the duty paid value of the goods. {Section 32(2)(b)}
- A fine not exceeding Rs 5,000 and imprisonment not exceeding 2 years. {Section 32(3)}

This may also entail cancellation of any licence, permit or authorization. {Section 32(4)}

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

RESPONSIBLE CARE PROGRAMME

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

September 2014
INTRODUCTION
Workers are potentially at risk by harmful exposure to hazardous chemicals in workplaces via the oral, dermal or inhalation routes. Exposure to chemicals may result among others in skin allergies / infections, eye damage / irritation, respiratory problems, reproductive problems, cancers or even death.

The aim of this pamphlet is to provide guidance to employers and workers on the sound management of chemicals at their place of work.

CLASSIFICATION AND LABELING OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS
Chemical substances and mixtures are classified in accordance to the hazard they present, namely physical, health and environmental. Hazardous chemicals are labeled with the following hazard symbols and pictograms:

SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

GENERAL
- Obtain Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and label for each hazardous chemical.
- Keep file of MSDS for all chemicals used.
- Evaluate risks and identify hazards associated to chemicals.
- Substitute hazardous chemicals by less hazardous ones.
- Limit the number of workers and time exposed to chemicals.
- Classify, label and package all chemicals and/or containers used or manufactured in accordance with the requirements specified in the Dangerous Chemicals Control Act 2004.
- Maintain an updated chemical inventory to avoid purchasing unnecessary quantities of chemicals.
- Provide information and continuous training on chemical safety on a regular basis.

PERSONAL PROTECTION
- Read and follow instructions on container labels and MSDS carefully prior to handling a chemical.
- Never use a chemical that is not labeled properly.
- Always wear suitable and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and use them correctly.
- Do not handle chemicals in areas without adequate ventilation.
- Keep chemical container closed when not in use.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke when handling chemicals.
- Wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling chemicals and before eating, drinking, or smoking.
- Wash contaminated clothes separately, never mix with the family laundry.

STORAGE
- Store chemicals in a secure, adequately spaced, well-ventilated place away from heat and ignition sources.
- Ensure all containers are closed and in an upright position.
- Keep away incompatible chemicals from each other.
- Store acids and bases separately.
- Store highly toxic chemicals separately.
- Store thermally unstable materials in approved and designated refrigerators.
- Keep away flammable liquids, solids and gases from heat, sparks and oxidisers.
- Do not store chemicals together with food and drink.
- Never use food containers for storage of chemicals.
- Keep chemical storage areas off limits to any unauthorized personnel.
- Do not place heavy materials, liquid chemicals, and large containers on high shelves.
- Do not place chemicals, solvent bottles or materials on the floor to prevent tripping.
- Affix appropriate warning signs using Hazard Symbols, Hazard Statements and Precautionary Statements in storage facilities.

DISPOSAL
- Store chemical wastes in properly labeled containers, preferably in their original containers.
- Segregate and store chemical wastes according to their compatibilities.
- Keep chemical waste containers closed at all times except when adding or removing waste.
- Maintain at least ten percent free space in waste containers to allow for expansion.
- Dispose of chemical wastes and empty containers as recommended by manufacturer or MSDS. Do not dispose chemical wastes into the environment.
- Maintain an updated inventory of the types and quantities of chemical wastes.

For further information on disposal of hazardous wastes, contact the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands.