Responsible Care is a voluntary commitment by the global chemical industry to drive continuous improvement and achieve excellence in environmental, health and safety and security performance.

It achieves this goal by meeting and exceeding legislative and regulatory requirements and by adopting collaborative approaches across the industry and with government and other stakeholders. This commitment is further backed by the activities of National Responsible Care programmes, which include systematic procedures to verify implementation of the Responsible Care elements.

Responsible Care is a commitment to an ethic of safe chemicals management and performance excellence in the chemical industry. It enhances public confidence and trust in the industry’s dedication to safely manage chemicals throughout their lifecycle, while ensuring that chemistry contributes to improving living standards, enhancing our quality of life and protecting the environment.

Effective and transparent engagement with our industry’s stakeholders is a cornerstone of Responsible Care and plays an important role in understanding and meeting society’s expectations.

Responsible Care was launched in 1985 in Canada to address challenges and stakeholder expectations for the chemical industry. Today, Responsible Care is practiced by the chemical industry in over 60 countries participating in the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA).

First published in 2005, our Responsible Care Global Charter was updated in 2014 to respond effectively to current stakeholder expectations, as well as the opportunities and challenges facing the global chemical industry.
Charter signatories commit to provide leadership and resources to:

- Implement Responsible Care principles and practices wherever the company manufactures or sells products;
- Participate in national Responsible Care programmes where the company has significant business activities;
- Contribute to the further expansion of Responsible Care in other regions where the company has significant business activities;
- Promote industry and public awareness of Responsible Care;
- Provide practical support and share best practices to enable other parties to successfully implement Responsible Care.

Charter signatories commit to:

- Strengthening Chemicals Management Systems by participating in the development and implementation of lifecycle-oriented, science- and risk-based chemical safety legislation and best practices.
- Engaging Stakeholders by dedicating their company, people, technologies and business practices to the Charter’s Six Elements:
  1. A Corporate Leadership Culture
  2. Safeguarding People and the Environment
  3. Strengthening Chemicals Management Systems
  4. Influencing Business Partners
  5. Engaging Stakeholders
  6. Contributing to Sustainability

Charter signatories commit to:

- Implement corporate principles, policies and procedures to safeguard employees, contractors, the public and the environment;
- Strive for continuous improvement with respect to workplace health and safety, public safety, process safety, environmental performance and the security of the company’s facilities and products.
- Drive continual improvement in product safety and stewardship processes and management;
- Provide information and assistance to enable safe chemicals management along the value chain;
- Collaborate with chemical users on maintaining and improving processes for the safe and effective uses of chemicals;
- Champion Responsible Care along the chemical industry value chain and encourage similar approaches in other industrial sectors.
- Engage stakeholders to understand and respond to their concerns and expectations for safer operations and products and communicating openly on our performance and products.
- Implement corporate principles, policies and processes to drive continuous improvement in waste management, greenhouse gas emissions and the efficient use of resources including energy, raw materials and water;
- Promote the importance of chemicals in improving quality of life and contributing to sustainable development;
- Participate in initiatives which confirm Responsible Care as a contributor to sustainable development and encourage others to make their own contributions to sustainability.

The effective implementation and credibility of Responsible Care and fulfilment of related commitments in the Global Charter requires the fullest participation of leading chemical companies whenever they have significant business activities.

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**Charter’s Six Elements:**

1. A Corporate Leadership Culture
2. Safeguarding People and the Environment
3. Strengthening Chemicals Management Systems
4. Influencing Business Partners
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6. Contributing to Sustainability

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