

Responsible Care[®] Product Safety Code: Confidence for Consumers



We enjoy healthier and longer lives, thanks, in part, to remarkable innovations in chemistry. From life-saving medical devices and airbags to child safety car seats and solar cells, the products of chemistry are at the heart of making our lives better and safer.

As valuable as these products are, they must also be used responsibly. That's why the American Chemistry Council has long championed Responsible Care, an initiative built around the safe, responsible, sustainable management of chemicals. Now, with the addition of the Product Safety Code, Responsible Care is even stronger.

What is the Responsible Care Product Safety Code?

The Product Safety Code is the chemical industry's pledge to deliver products that can be safely used from inception to end of life. The Code goes beyond regulatory requirements to give consumers confidence that the chemical industry puts safety at the core of its mission. The Code requires companies to identify and evaluate new information that may have risk and product safety management implications along the supply chain. Code compliance is certified by an independent, third-party auditor.

What Does the Code Mean for Consumers?

Products Backed By Science

Consumers want to know that rigorous research guides decisions about chemical development and use.

- The Product Safety Code requires companies to undertake scientific analyses of their products, with close consideration of how they are used by consumers, especially children.

Sustainable Life-Cycle

Consumers expect product safety and stewardship to be the shared responsibilities of companies that develop, manufacture, sell, use and eventually reuse, recycle and dispose of products and materials.

- Under the Product Safety Code, companies continually share information along the supply chain so that products can be used safely.

Continuous Improvement

Science is evolving, and consumers expect companies to keep up with scientific advances and regularly reassess the safety of their products.

- The Product Safety Code requires companies to continuously evaluate new information that may have safety implications related to product use and management.

Accountability

When it comes to safety, consumers must have confidence that words are backed up by actions.

- The Code requires that independent, accredited auditors certify that companies comply with Product Safety Code requirements.
- The Responsible Care logo is the conformation of this pledge to product safety.

Transparency

Consumers deserve plain-language information about chemicals so they can make informed decisions about the chemical products they use.

- Under the Product Safety Code, companies provide public access to product safety information.

Certainty

Consumers need assurance that all companies involved in manufacturing, transporting and selling chemical products are held to account.

- Under the Product Safety Code, companies take corrective measures if they discover improper practices involving a product, ranging from resolving the improper practices to terminating business relationships.

