

Renewal and continuation of the Responsible Care Partnership Agreement

between

Verband der Chemischen Industrie e.V.
represented by the President Prof. Dr. Ulrich Lehner

and

Verband Chemiehandel e.V.
represented by the President Carl Hugo Erbslöh

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More than ten years ago, on 20th November 1996, the German Association of Chemical Manufacturers (Verband der Chemischen Industrie, VCI) and the German Association of Chemical Traders (Verband Chemiehandel, VCH) declared their will to cooperate in the form of a partnership agreement in the development of the worldwide initiative „Responsible Care“.

The companies, organised in their representative associations, and also the associations themselves, look back today on a period of successful cooperation, continuously improving safety, health and environmental protection.

The VCI and the VCH substantiate and renew the partnership agreement and declare their intention to continue and develop their cooperation as in the past.

With the ICCA Global Charter and the revised Joint Responsible Care/Responsible Distribution programmes of the worldwide, International Council of Chemical Trading Associations (ICCTA), the Responsible Care Initiative was sharpened and refocussed in 2006, in order to deal with current and future challenges.

In future, as well as environmental protection, health and safety, product responsibility and sustainability are increasingly taking centre stage as elements of responsible trading. This also applies to the national Responsible Care programmes. The future realisation of the partnership agreement is to take greater account of this development.

VCI and VCH emphasise their intention to continue to promote their cooperation in product responsibility within the delivery chain.

They make reference here to section 5 of the Global Charter. In this, the national associations, in consultation with their members, undertake the obligation to engage in a “partner-like cooperation with suppliers and users“.

The aim here is particularly the development of improved processes for the safe and appropriate application of chemicals.

With this in mind, the VCH also intends to integrate the chemicals-related transport sector, as a component of the supply chain, into its Responsible Care programme. Therefore, in future, chemicals haulage companies can participate directly in the VCH programme.

The partnership agreement between the VCI and the VCH further serves to communicate to the general public the importance of the economic and societal contributions of the chemical industry, and of chemical trading and their partners.

December 6th, 2007

Verband der Chemischen
Industrie e.V.

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Ulrich Lehner
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