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RCC Nanotechnology Working Group: Nanotechnology Work Plan

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Deliverable Outcome	Share information and develop common approaches, to the extent possible, on foundational regulatory elements, including criteria for determining characteristics of concern/no concern, information gathering, approaches to risk assessment and management, etc. Develop joint initiatives to align regulatory approaches in specific areas such that consistency exists for consumers and industry in Canada and the US.				
Overarching Action Items	Principles Identification of common principles for the regulation of nanomaterials to help ensure consistency for industry and consumers in both countries	Workplan for Industrial Nanomaterials Priority-Setting Identify common criteria for determining characteristics of industrial nanomaterials of concern/no-concern	Risk Assessment/Management Share best practices for assessing and managing the risks of industrial nanomaterials	Commercial Information Characterize existing commercial activities and identify gaps and priorities for future knowledge gathering for industrial nanomaterials	Regulatory Cooperation in Areas of Emerging Technologies Develop a model framework providing key elements and approaches to regulating products and applications of emerging technologies with respect to potential impacts on the environment, human health, food or agriculture
1-3 months		(1) Define and finalize workplan (1st month) (2) Develop mechanisms for stakeholder outreach and engagement (1st month) (3) Conference call with relevant stakeholders to share and discuss workplan and call for Industry to volunteer nanomaterials for joint CAN/US review			
3-6 months	Canada provides initial feedback on US "Policy Principles for the US Decision-Making Concerning Regulation and Oversight of Applications of Nanotechnology and Nanomaterials".	Share available scientific evidence regarding characteristics of industrial nanomaterials including that obtained from existing international fora (e.g. OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials).	Share current experiences and approaches associated with Risk Assessment (RA) & Risk Management (RM) of industrial nanomaterials in Canada and the US (i.e. those under *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* and *Toxic Substances Control Act*) including that	Share lessons learned from previous commercial data gathering activities.	Initial scoping of study; examination of current or theoretical models, frameworks and approaches that support international regulatory cooperation related to emerging areas (e.g. defining the issue or concern, identifying relevant regulatory authorities, considering approaches for RA).

			obtained from existing international fora (e.g. OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials).		
8th month		Stakeholder workshop to discuss information collected to date and approaches moving forward.			
6-12 months	Countries complete an initial draft of shared principles for the regulation of nanomaterials.	Initiate an analysis of characteristics of select nanomaterials: similarities, differences, reasons for them. Initiate discussions on approaches to consider for common definitions and terminology.	Draft data gaps to reduce uncertainties for conducting RA and RM on industrial nanomaterials. Initiate pilot project on comparing risk assessments through case studies of nano substances, including those put forth by industry.	Countries share non-Confidential Business Information (CBI) information concerning industrial nanomaterials in the marketplace. Identify areas where information is limited. Invite stakeholder comment and input to help address these gaps.	Discussion on whether and how CBI can be shared across jurisdictions.
12th month		Second conference call with relevant stakeholders to discuss non-CBI information gathered between the Countries and to discuss path forward in terms of development of reports and analyses.			
12-18 months	Update of draft principles informed from on-going stakeholder and expert consultations.	Develop draft criteria for determining characteristics of industrial nanomaterials of concern/no-concern.	Initiate an assessment of current RA and RM approaches, for industrial nanomaterials in Canada and the United States, identifying, where possible, best practices. Finalize pilot project risk assessments of selected industrial nanomaterials.	Initiate an assessment of industrial nanomaterial uses in Canada and the United States.	Complete initial draft report for review / validation. Apply lessons learned on regulatory cooperation based on results to date from nanotechnology working group. Recommend what, if any, options are available and specify conditions for sharing CBI across jurisdictions of similar programs.

15th month		Third conference call with relevant stakeholders to discuss progress and to prepare for the upcoming stakeholder consultation/workshop.			
18th month	Stakeholder consultation / workshop on results to date and future ongoing engagement.				
Beyond 18 months	Countries complete final draft of shared principles for the regulation of nanomaterials.	Draft technical language providing common descriptions and criteria of classes of industrial nanomaterials, and incorporate into summary report (see column at right). Draft document on common CAN/US approach to definition, characteristics and test methods for assessing industrial nanomaterials.	Complete assessment of current RA and RM approaches and best practices for risk assessment and risk management of industrial nanomaterials, and incorporate into summary report (see column at right). Identify opportunities for and barriers to ongoing collaborations and regulatory alignment.	Complete assessment of industrial nanomaterial uses in Canada and the United States, and incorporate into summary report (see column at right). Identify opportunities for and barriers to ongoing collaborations and regulatory alignment.	Complete final summary report on approaches and points to consider for regulatory alignment in emerging technologies, including nanotechnology, incorporating information gathered on criteria for determining characteristics, RA and RM approaches, and industrial nanomaterial uses.

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