

## EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBLE CARE INTO CORE BUSINESS VALUE STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE FOR CEOs



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Dear Readers,

Sustainability has moved from being an aspirational theme to a central determinant of competitiveness, credibility, and capital access in the chemical industry. As regulatory expectations rise in countries across the world, the integration of sustainability metrics, ESG metrics and Responsible Care metrics has become essential for long-term value creation and corporate governance. The chemical industry's future competitiveness depends on the quality, transparency, and integration of these metrics. Their purpose is not only to meet stakeholder expectations but to equip companies with the information required to make disciplined investments, improve efficiency, strengthen governance, and lead responsibly in a rapidly evolving global market.

Sustainability metrics form the operational foundation for evaluating how responsibly a company uses energy, water, and raw materials, and how effectively it limits emissions, waste, and ecological impacts. These metrics encompass greenhouse-gas inventories across Scope 1, 2, and increasingly Scope 3 categories, energy intensity trends, process heat sources, and the penetration of renewable power. They also include water withdrawal and discharge quality, waste management outcomes, and indicators of circularity such as recycled content, efficient feedstock use, and product recovery systems.

In chemical manufacturing, these metrics directly affect cost structures, operating reliability, and investment choices, shape regulatory trust, community acceptance, and the credibility of climate transition strategies. The ability to demonstrate that sustainability improvements generate economic returns is becoming essential for securing capital, winning new business, and meeting investor expectations for credible transition planning.

Readers are aware that ICC drives Responsible Care in India, the global chemical industry's leading safety and sustainability initiative. Responsible Care metrics

provide a deeply industry-specific lens, focusing on operational integrity, process safety, distribution safety, community impact, and facility stewardship. They capture the quality of plant operations through measures such as process safety event rates, loss of containment indicators, emergency preparedness, distribution incidents, and the maturity of product stewardship systems.

**The seven codes of Responsible Care directly create business value and trust – the two currencies that determine an enterprise's long-term success.**

### 1. Process Safety Code

Safe operations are the foundation of business continuity.

Every prevented incident protects human lives, saves millions in potential losses, and preserves reputation.

Investors view robust process safety systems as a proxy for strong governance and risk management. Simply put, fewer incidents mean higher reliability – and reliability builds trust and valuation.

### 2. Employee Health and Safety Code

A safe and healthy workforce is more productive and motivated.

In an era where ESG analysts track "Total Recordable Incident Rates" and "Lost Time Injury Frequency," companies with strong health and safety performance attract both talent and capital. This code translates directly to operational excellence and lower insurance and compliance costs.

### 3. Environmental Protection Code

Emission reductions, waste minimization, and cleaner production lower not just ecological impact but also operating expenses.

Environmental performance now affects credit ratings, loan terms, and export access – making this code a value protection mechanism.

Green operations are fast becoming a mark of business leadership.

### 4. Product Stewardship Code

This extends responsibility across the product life cycle – from design to disposal.

It strengthens customer confidence, reduces liability risks, and opens new markets for safer and

sustainable products.

In valuation terms, it enhances brand equity and future revenue potential.

#### 5. Distribution Code

Safe handling, transport, and storage of chemicals protect communities and supply chains.

In business terms, it ensures continuity and compliance, reducing risk premiums and building confidence among logistics partners and regulators.

It also directly supports SDG 9 and SDG 11 through resilient infrastructure and safer cities.

#### 6. Security Code

With increasing global concerns around chemical misuse and cyber threats, this code safeguards both physical and information assets.

A secure company is a trusted partner – in global trade, in procurement, and in investment.

Security is the new currency of credibility.

#### 7. Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER) Code

This code anchors our social licence to operate.

Transparent engagement with communities, readiness for emergencies, and open dialogue create long-term trust.

Trust, in turn, stabilizes operations and enhances brand value – something that no balance sheet can fully capture but every investor recognizes.

These seven codes are seven business drivers. Together, they reduce risk, improve efficiency, open markets, strengthen stakeholder confidence, and ultimately enhance enterprise value and societal trust.

**Responsible Care thus becomes a strategic business model – where doing the right thing is also the most profitable thing in the long run.**

In India, sustainability and ESG disclosures are becoming mainstream through BRSR and BRSR Core requirements, which demand credible data on emissions, water use, safety, and social impacts. Indian companies increasingly integrate Responsible Care principles to strengthen community trust and operational discipline. Access to sustainability-linked financing is growing rapidly and

depends on verifiable improvements in environmental and safety metrics. Boards in India are expected to oversee climate and safety issues with clearer accountability, making governance indicators crucial.

On this note, ICC organized the 7th Edition of the ICC Sustainability Conclave, supported by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India, on October 30–31, 2025, at The Lalit, New Delhi. The Conclave focused on the theme “Sustainability in a Dynamic World: Strategic & Operational Imperatives for the Indian Chemical Industry.” The two-day event served as a key platform for industry leaders, policymakers, global experts, and thought leaders to deliberate on advancing sustainable practices within the chemical sector amidst a changing geopolitical and regulatory landscape.

**Mrs. Ramya Bharathram**, President, Indian Chemical Council (ICC) & Managing Director and CFO, Thirumalai Chemicals Limited, while delivering the welcome address, stressed on how Sustainability in the Chemical sector is essential for long-term value creation and corporate governance. **Ravi Kapoor**, Chairman – Sustainability Committee, ICC, shared the ICC Perspective on Sustainability.

**Mr. Dennis Beel**, Global Chemicals Leader, PwC Belgium, presented the Global Perspective on Sustainability while the Chief Guest, **Smt. Nivedita Shukla Verma**, Secretary, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India, lauded the Indian chemical industry's ongoing efforts toward sustainable manufacturing and reiterated the Government's commitment to facilitating innovation and circularity.

**Smt. Roli Singh**, Chairperson, National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC), Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, spoke on the significance of responsible care and sustainable governance in strengthening India's global leadership in chemicals.

Other key personalities who spoke include, **Mr. Jayant V. Dhobley**, Business Head CFI Sector & Century Enka, Aditya Birla Group & Vice President, ICC, and **Mr. Kartik Bharat Ram**, Immediate Past President, ICC & Joint Managing Director, SRF Limited.





CEO round Table organized in the evening focused on Sustainability in a Dynamic World: Strategic & Operational Imperatives for the Indian Chemical Industry.



By uniting policymakers, industry leaders, and global experts, the Conclave paved the way for collaborative action toward a more sustainable, resilient, and responsible future for the Indian chemical sector.

Moving onto other activities by ICC...

### ICC'S PARTICIPATION AT 2025 ITCO MEMBERS MEETING

I had the opportunity to virtually represent ICC and speak on the Latest Trends and Developments in the Indian chemical Industry, in the Plenary Conference Session of the ITCO Members Meeting held at Singapore on 18 - 19 November 2025.

The other speakers in the plenary included Paul Gooch, President, International Tank Container Organisation, Gina Fyffe, CEO Integra Petrochem, Andie McKeown, CEO, Logchain and John Richardson from ICIS.

Tank containers are a safe, cost-effective, environmental and adaptable mode of transport for



Chemicals and are ideally suited to intermodal traffic. The loaded product is subject to minimal handling...at the loading point, and at the point of discharge...unlike products moved on bulk parcel tankers. The global tank container fleet, comprises a range of tank types including tanks for liquids, liquefied gases, powders, swap tanks and specials and it is estimated that at present, the global tank container fleet stood at 882,023 units.

### ICC DELEGATION MEETS CHAIRPERSON, NACWC

A delegation from ICC comprising of **Mr. D. Sothi Selvam, Director General, ICC**, **Mrs. Shraddha Rane, Secretary General, ICC**, **Dr. Pranav Tripathi, Head - Responsible Care and Sustainability Initiatives, ICC**, **Mr. Dhruvil Soni,**





Officer- Environment, Sustainability & Regulatory, & **Dr. R. Narayanan**, Incharge, CWC Help Desk – Hyderabad, had a meeting with **Smt. Roli Singh I.A.S.**, Chairperson, National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India on 29th October 2025 at NACWC Office, New Delhi. The delegation made presentations on ICC & ICC's activities with respect to implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention in India.

## CHEMICAL BURNS MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

ICC in cooperation with **HSE Solutions Pvt. Ltd.**, organised a Seminar on “**Chemical Burns Management – Stopping Incidents from Becoming Accidents.**” Presentations were led by **Dr. Manjeet Singh**, a certified First-Aid, CPR and disaster management trainer with over 35 years of hands-on industrial experience, and **Ratna Mehta** from



Prevor, France, who has more than 15 years of expertise in chemical risk management and has worked extensively on improving industrial safety and supporting acid attack victims. Adding valuable industry perspective, **Mr. Dnyaneshwar Mahajan**, GM–Corporate EHS at Aarti Pharmalabs, presented insights on handling chemical first aid. The programme also included experience sharing by industry professionals, interactive discussions, and a focus on improving emergency response standards across India.

## RESPONSIBLE CARE

93 companies have been approved to use the RC Logo, following in-depth RC Audit at their sites and corporate office. The RC activities of November 2025 are as follows:

ATTRIBUTES	NOVEMBER 2025
RC Logo New Audit	01
RC Recertification	03
RC Gap Assessment	00
Security Vulnerability Assessment (SVA)	00
RC Audit Training	01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>05</b>

## POLICY ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION

### 1. Representation of Inputs in Environmental issues

- **Submission date of representation:** 17 November 2025
- **Action:** Indian Chemical Council (ICC) has provided the

potential by-products to Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for taking their SOP's into consideration as shared by ICC's members.

- **Issues:** Many hazardous materials generate useful by-products that can be utilized by industries, but their use is currently restricted by regulations. Although numerous such by-products exist, only a few have been formally recognized. There is a need for a systematic process, and DCPC has initiated efforts to identify these by-products and develop a standard operating procedure (SOP) for their regulated use.
- **Request:** ICC has requested Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for intervention in addressing the highlighted environmental issues.

### 2. Representation on Response to the Draft Notification issued (vide G.S.R. 365(E) dated June 4, 2025) on Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025

- **Submission date of representation:** 13 November 2025
- **Action:** Indian Chemical Council (ICC) shared members inputs on the Draft Notification issued (vide G.S.R. 365(E) dated June 4, 2025) on Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025 by Central Government. The submission highlighted the concerns with recycled plastic content and concerns with re-use obligations along with recommendations.
- **Issues:** The submission noted that the cosmetic industry faces major safety, quality, and technical challenges in using recycled or reused plastics for bulk/ industrial packaging, including contamination risks, drum failures, lack of suitable PCR supply, and absence of clear regulatory guidelines.
- **Request:** On behalf of members, ICC recommended to -  
(1) reduced and deferred PCR targets—capped at 5% from 2027–28 for bulk packs, and  
(2) exemption of the B2B cosmetic/HPC industry from reuse obligations due to high product-safety risks and supply-chain limitations.

### 3. Representation on Inputs for India–EAEU Trade Negotiations (HS 6-digit Tariff Lines)

- **Submission date of representation:** 13 November 2025
- **Action:** Indian Chemical Council (ICC) submitted members' inputs to Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (DCPC) on include **2905.00 – Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA)** and **2808.00 – Nitric Acid** as key export interests to the in response to the request for identifying key export interests and sensitive products at the HS 6-digit level for the upcoming India–EAEU negotiations
- **Request:** ICC requested that the Department to include **2905.00 – Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA)** and **2808.00 – Nitric Acid** as key export interests in upcoming India–EAEU negotiations

#### 4. Pre-Budget Proposal 2026–27

- **Submission Date:** 28 October 2025
- **Action:** ICC delegation attended the TRU pre-budget meeting on 28 October 2025 and presented member inputs on Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on Iso Propyl Alcohol (IPA), Butyl Acetate (BUTAC), PVC, Ammonium Nitrate, Soda Ash, Sodium Bicarbonate, Phthalic Anhydride, Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM) along with policy matters.
- **Issues:** Rationalization of duties to address inverted duty structures, safeguard domestic manufacturing, and ensure competitiveness against low-cost imports and concerns on policy-related matters such as ambiguity in classification, compliance challenges, and the need for clearer guidelines to support ease of doing business and promote a stable and predictable regulatory environment.
- **Request:** ICC requested the Department to kindly

consider the inputs submitted by members on products and policy issues in the formulation of the Pre-Budget 2026–27 proposals.

#### 5. ChemIndia Portal Discussion

- **Activity date of representation:** 6th November 2025
- **Action:** In continuation to ongoing ChemIndia Portal meetings and discussion, Indian Chemical Council (ICC) shared a comparative analysis of 7 different nations wrt chemical inventory vis-a-vis India's ChemIndia Portal to members.
- **Issues:** The submission covered the parameters which are not captured by other nations but is mandatorily insisted in ChemIndia Portal by DCPC, Gol.
- **Request:** On behalf of members, ICC will be submitting a representation on this to Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

The Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 16 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 (11 of 2016) and after consulting the Bureau of Indian Standards, has rescinded the QCO notification of below Chemicals and Petrochemicals in the public interest and takes immediate effect -

Sr No.	Chemical Name	Rescission Date With Effect From
1	Lauric Acid	22 October 2025
2	Acid Oil	22 October 2025
3	Palm Fatty Acids	22 October 2025
4	Rice Bran Fatty Acids	22 October 2025
5	Coconut Fatty Acids	22 October 2025
6	Hydrogenated Rice Bran Fatty Acids	22 October 2025
7	Pyridine	20 November 2025
8	Beta Picoline	20 November 2025
9	Sodium Tripolyphosphate	20 November 2025
10	H Acid	20 November 2025
11	K Acid	20 November 2025
12	Vinyl Sulphone	20 November 2025

Sr No.	Petrochemical Name	Rescission Date With Effect From
1	Acrylonitrile	24 October 2025
2	Maleic Anhydride	24 October 2025
3	Styrene (Vinyl Benzene)	24 October 2025
4	Terephthalic Acid	12 November 2025
5	Ethylene Glycol	12 November 2025
6	100 Percent Polyester Spun, Grey and White Yarn	12 November 2025
7	Polyester Industrial Yarn (IDY)	12 November 2025
8	Polyester Staple Fibres (PSF)	12 November 2025
9	Polyester Continuous Filament Fully Drawn Yarn	12 November 2025
10	Polyester Partially Oriented Yarn	12 November 2025
11	Polyethylene Material for Moulding and Extrusion	12 November 2025
12	Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS)	12 November 2025
13	Polypropylene (PP) Materials for Moulding and Extrusion	12 November 2025
14	Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Homopolymers	12 November 2025
15	Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA) Copolymers	12 November 2025
16	Polyurethanes	12 November 2025
17	Polycarbonate	12 November 2025

## INDIAN CHEMICAL COUNCIL - PLAN OF ACTIVITIES 2025-2026

DATES / MONTHS	EVENT DETAILS	DATES / MONTHS	EVENT DETAILS
DECEMBER 2025	ICC ICT Training Programme on Environment & Safety for MSME in Chemical Industry + Outreach Location: Roha, Maharashtra Date: 04 - 05 December, 2025	JANUARY 2026	Webinar on Cybersecurity focusing on innovative solutions and their cost-effective implementation for industrial protection Date: 23 January 2026
	ICC ICT Training Programme on Environment & Safety for MSME in Chemical Industry Location: Kolkata Date: 06-07 December, 2025	FEBRUARY 2026	ICC ICT Training programme on Environment & Safety for MSME in Chemical Industry Location: Chandigarh Date: 19 - 20 February 2026
	Outreach program for State Govt. officials, industry, and academic institutions Location- Jaipur/ Udaipur, Rajasthan Date: 18 December, 2025		Refresher course on "Chemical Engineering for Plant Personnel" Venue: Southern Region Date: February 2026
	Webinar on PFAS Restrictions Date: 12 December, 2025		Industry Interface Program Location: Bangalore, Karnataka Date: February 2026
	20th National Convention of UN GCNI Location- The Westin, Kolkata Date: 12 December, 2025		Webinar on Utilizing AI to Enhance Process Safety Date: 27 February, 2026 Speaker: Prof. Rahul Nabar, Adj. Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Bombay
	Webinar on Data Protection Date: 26 December, 2025	MARCH 2026	19th Annual India Chemical Industry Outlook Conference & Exhibition* Location: Grand Hyatt, Mumbai Date: 11-12 March 2026
JANUARY 2026	One Day Course on Achieving Sustainability through Green Chemistry (Virtual) Date: 17 January 2026		One day training program on First Aid and CPR Location: Delhi/NCR Date: 11 March 2026
	4th Industry Institution Partnership Summit* Location: Chennai Date: 23 January 2026		Refresher course on "Chemical Engineering for Plant Personnel" Location: Northern Region Date: March 2026
	Conference on 'Green & Renewable Energy in Chemical Industry' Location: Kolkata, West Bengal Date: TBD		Webinar on Digitalization Preparedness Date: 23 March, 2026
	ICC ICT Training Programme on Environment & Safety for MSME in Chemical Industry + Outreach Location: Mumbai / Taloja, Maharashtra Date: TBD		ICC ICT Training programme on Environment & Safety for MSME in Chemical Industry Location: New Delhi / Chandigarh Date: 25 - 26 March 2026
	Outreach program for State Govt. officials, industry, and academic institutions Location: Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh Date: 22 January 2026	April 2026	Course on 'Cost optimization of chemical processes' Date: TBD

For Enquiry & Registration: Email: [iccmumbai@iccmil.in](mailto:iccmumbai@iccmil.in) / [trade@iccmil.in](mailto:trade@iccmil.in), Tel: 61144000