

# Regulation of hygiene, personal care and specialty products

Hygiene, personal care and specialty chemical products are regulated to protect human health, safety and the environment.

Ongoing improvement is needed to ensure Australian regulation remains fit for purpose.

## Regulatory complexity and challenges

Accord advocates for evidence-based, fit-for-purpose regulation.

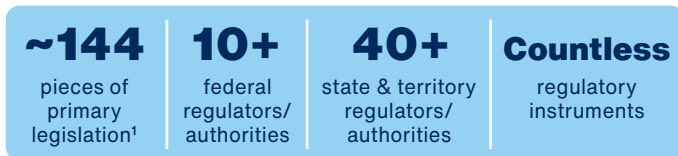
This means regulation that offers the necessary protections without stifling innovation and investment or overly burdening the regulated industry.

### Can the system be improved?

Australia's chemicals regulation system is rigorous and robust in protecting human health, safety and the environment.

However, its complexity and unique Australian requirements have significant impacts on businesses, consumers and the economy.

### Complexity



*'The regulation of chemicals and plastics has long been the subject of concerns about inconsistencies, complexity and fragmentation'<sup>2</sup>*

This places a large compliance burden on responsible businesses in the sector, with knock-on effects.

### A good regulatory system should

#### PROTECT



Human health, safety & environment

#### ENABLE



Innovation & efficiency



Consumer information & choice



Consumer trust

### Unique Australian requirements



New product / ingredient

Is it worth it?



- > Small market
- > Unique requirements
- > Reassessment costs

Australian requirements form a barrier to the availability in Australia of the latest, innovative products and ingredients. Often, unique Australian requirements—over and above the requirements of other trusted overseas authorities—are not justified.

### Fit-for-purpose regulation

A lower regulatory burden and greater fit-for-purpose system that is aligned with those of comparable overseas economies has significant benefits for businesses, regulators, consumers and the economy.

Increase... <b>FIT FOR PURPOSE</b>	Complexity	<b>BENEFITS</b>				
		Businesses	Regulators	Consumers	Economy	
Minimum, effective regulation	Red tape	Efficiency ▲ Cost ▼	More time & investment in core business, not red tape ✓	Resources prioritised to higher risk No duplicative assessment ✓	Regulatory efficiencies reflected to consumer ✓	Greater productivity ✓
Proportionate to risk	High compliance costs					
Evidence-based	Unique Australian requirements	Access ▲	More innovative ingredients ✓	Data and knowledge from trusted overseas regulators ✓	More innovative products ✓	'Level playing field' for small & large businesses ✓
Internationally aligned	Long assessment timeframes					
Compliance certainty & consistency	Inconsistent interpretation					
Meaningful consultation	<b>Decrease... REGULATORY BURDEN</b>					

### Can we trust the system?

Please refer to our 'Regulation for safety & confidence' infographic

Technologies, systems and markets are constantly evolving. Regulatory systems must do likewise so they do not create barriers to the development and availability in Australia of innovative products and ingredients e.g. with superior performance and environmental characteristics.

Regulatory/standards system:

<sup>1</sup> Environment Australia 1998, National Profile of Chemicals Management Infrastructure in Australia

<sup>2</sup> Productivity Commission 2008, Chemicals and Plastics Regulation, Research Report, Melbourne