

Responsible Care Guidance

The revised Responsible Care management system provides European chemical companies along the supply chain with a clear, inclusive and progressive pathway to continuous improvement.

It includes the development of practical tools (a Responsible Care management framework and a Responsible Care Self-Assessment tool) valuable to both companies and national associations, and the creation of maturity levels to help companies grow over time. It connects European Responsible Care® to the highest possible standards (i.e. quality management ISO9001, environmental management ISO14001, EMAS, energy management ISO50001, health & safety ISO45001, ISO26000, RC 14001 and RCMS) along with Sustainability Principles (i.e. UN Sustainable Development Goals, Fecc Note on Sustainability). Ultimately, it contributes to a harmonized approach of Responsible Care at ICTA level.

The revised management system wants to be inclusive, enabling small and large, companies or sites, with experience in Responsible Care and standards or without, to get started on performance excellence and have a view on how to improve over time. Therefore, it includes **4 maturity levels** representing four different levels of Responsible Care implementation as follows:

Level 1 Commit to Responsible Care	The candidate commits to Responsible Care and starts acknowledging the implementation steps.
Level 2 Initiate and Plan	PD - Planning and Doing: the organisation has started implementing Responsible Care throughout its business, plans are made to improve and implemented.
Level 3 Improve Continuously	PDCA - Planning Doing Checking and Acting: the organisation has reached a level of implementation where the plans and actions are not only done, but also assessed to drive continuous improvement; full management system approach.
Level 4 Promote and Sustain Excellence	The organisation has achieved an improved performance, improved effectiveness. It is going further by either reviewing effectiveness of her processes or sharing best practices with peers, partners etc to foster resource building in the business and accelerate change.