

That paper served to illustrate the fact that there is a wide range of tasks which must be initiated ahead of time by any government if it is to be able to commit its country in good faith to the CWC at the time of entry into force.

An important requirement under the future CWC, highlighted in the above mentioned Strategy Paper, is the assembling of data on which chemicals relevant to the CWC are produced, used, and traded. When considering its approach to implementation, Australia's National Secretariat was faced with the problem of not knowing the levels of production or use of the relevant chemicals in Australia. This is a fundamental question which is critical for any country in determining not only the size and shape of its National Authority, but also the overall national implementation effort which will be required.

In common with most other countries, chemicals are heavily regulated in Australia. While this regulation means that various databases on chemical production do exist, it became clear that in themselves, these would not meet all the requirements of the CWC. Because of differences in the way these databases were structured, difficulties were also found in assembling this information in a format suitable for the CWC. Furthermore it was likely, given that these databases are held by different governments within Australia, that there would have been issues of access to resolve. Consequently Australia's National Secretariat concluded it would be necessary to conduct a survey of chemicals which was tailor-made to meet the requirements of the CWC.