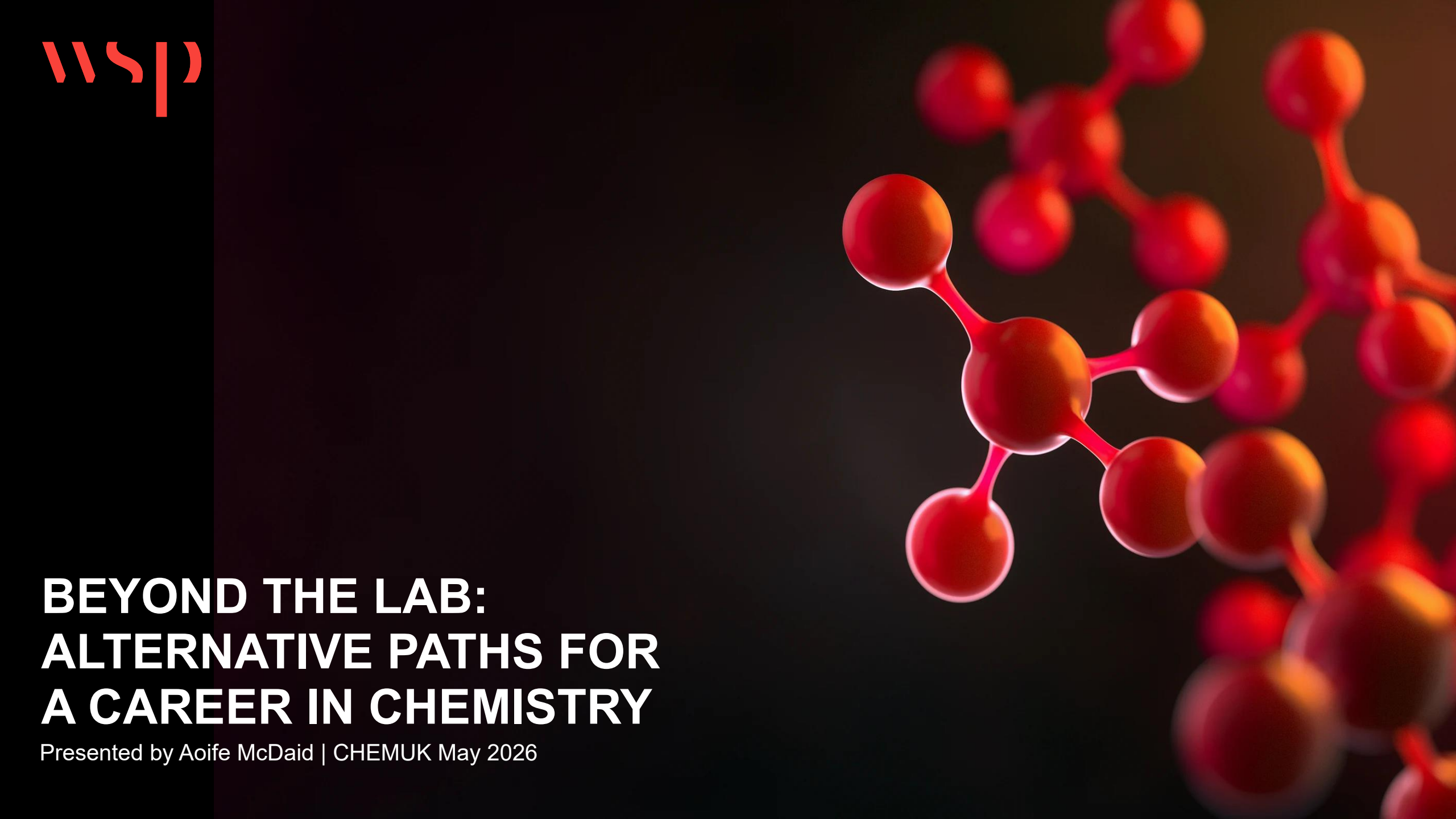
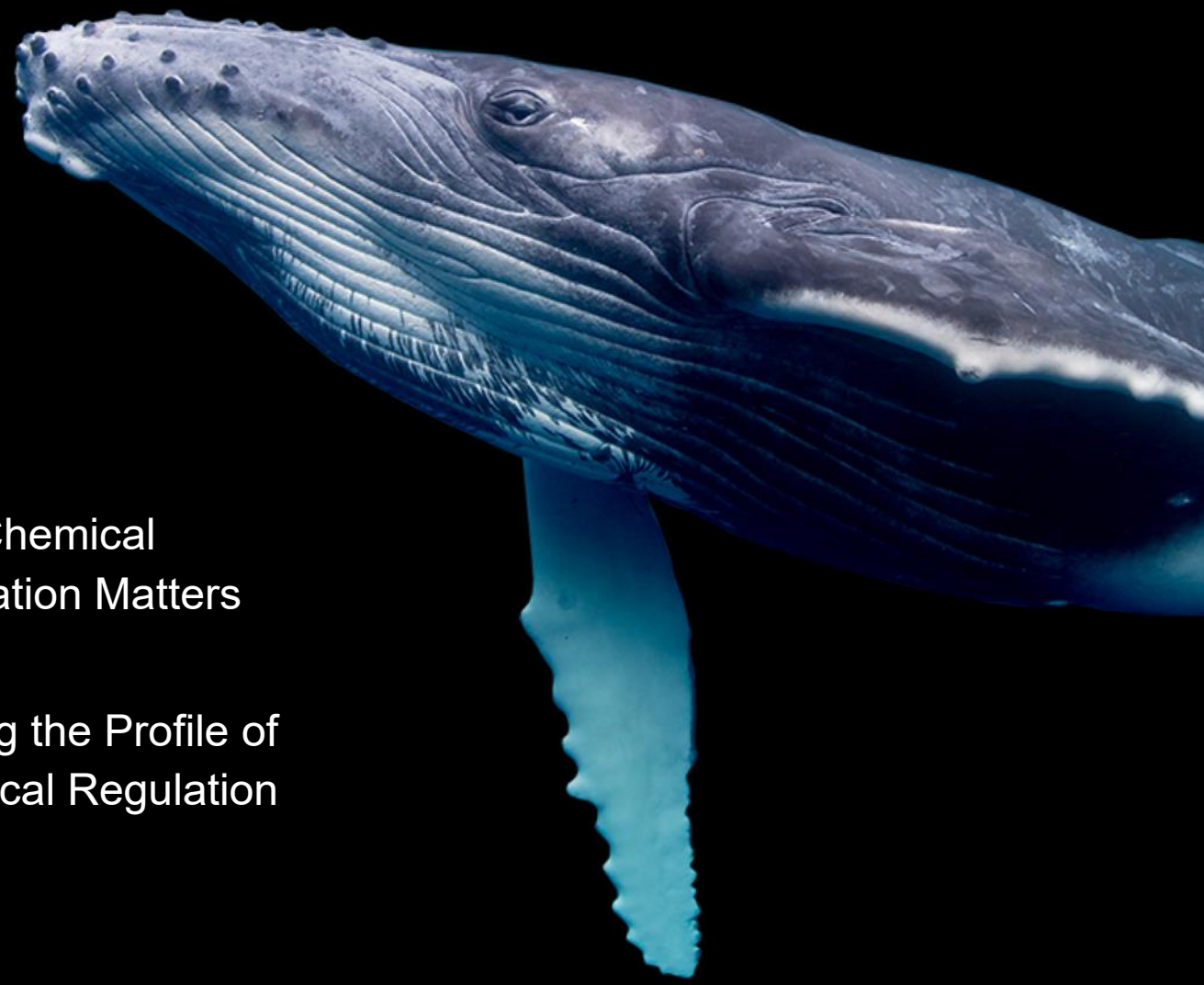


BEYOND THE LAB: ALTERNATIVE PATHS FOR A CAREER IN CHEMISTRY

Presented by Aoife McDaid | CHEMUK May 2026

Today’s Presentation



01 Studying Chemistry

02 Chemical Compliance

03 Why Chemical Regulation Matters

04 Raising the Profile of Chemical Regulation



Aoife McDaid

BSci, AMRSC, RSci

Junior Consultant

Chemical Compliance at WSP

Studying Chemistry

University of Manchester (2019-2022)

September 2019
Moved to Manchester and began my studies

March 2020
COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown

March – September 2021
All courses shifted to online learning, including practical modules

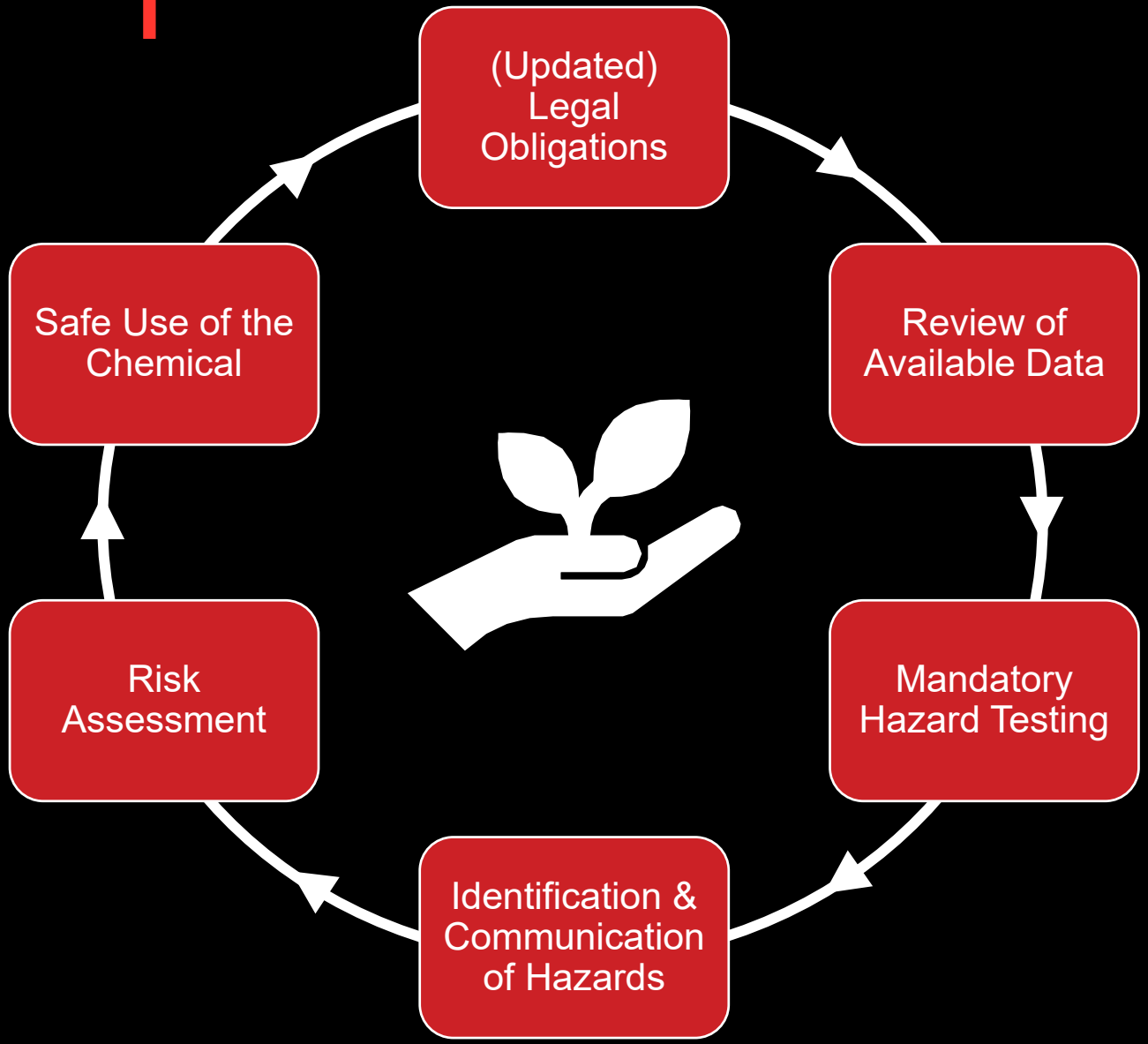
September 2021 – June 2022
Mixed (on campus/online) delivery of modules

July 2022
Graduated from BSc (Hons) Chemistry





Chemical Compliance





https://unece.org/transport/dangerous-goods/ghs-pictograms?__cf_chl_tk=OPIX_WNcrd86MzNbKd.7464Kyot5NJF_BDykfOdC4j0-1778767897-1.0.1.1-QFS1PhSPJ7joaQV96OHfqpL1pC.hoA.GZblnSV6LMpY

Why Chemical Regulation Matters



1. **Protects human health and the environment** by ensuring hazardous chemicals are properly assessed and controlled.



2. **Prevents business disruption** through maintained market access and avoidance of non-compliance penalties.



3. **Supports sustainable, safe product development** throughout a chemical’s lifecycle.



CASE STUDY

- Comparison of the 2024 Olympic medals against those manufactured in Asia for the 2022 Games showed that **chromium trioxide had been removed.**
- As a result of regulatory testing, chromium trioxide was identified as hazardous to human health and banned in the EU.
- The manufacturer had to use a new varnish without sufficient time to test it, resulting in the damaged medals.
- By the 2026 Winter Olympics, a suitable, safer alternative to Chromium Trioxide was identified and used.

https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/paris-2024-medal-scandal-rocks-ioc

CASE STUDY

- In recent months, the nail industry has seen a massive change in its gel polish formulation to remove key ingredient TPO.
- Due to a recent classification change, TPO **must be removed from Cosmetics**.
- In gel polish, the photo initiator TPO is allows the gel to cure (harden) under UV or LED light.

- Gel polishes now use alternative photo initiators that are not hazardous but work just as effectively.



https://www.womenshealthmag.com/uk/beauty/body/a63830725/hema-free-gel-polish/
https://www.scratchmagazine.co.uk/news/what-is-tpo-why-is-it-being-banned-from-nail-products/
https://thegelbottle.com/blog/tpo-explained-everything-you-need-to-know/

Raising the Profile of Chemical Regulation



PROVIDE VISIBILITY

Raising the Profile of Chemical Regulation



PROVIDE VISIBILITY

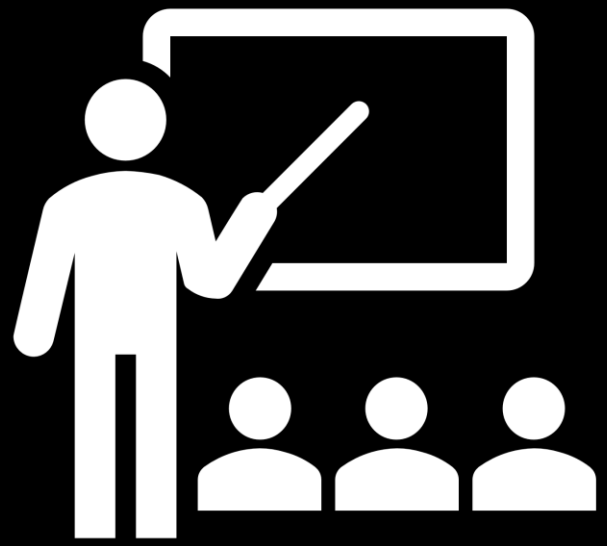
Project Management

Chemical Policy

Regulatory Affairs

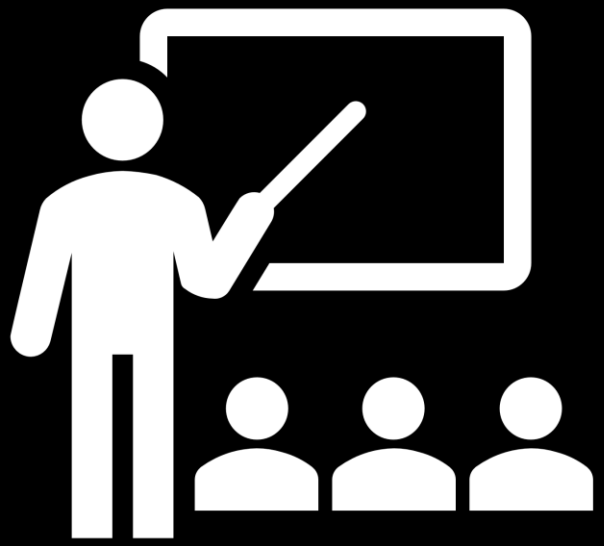
Environmental Science

Raising the Profile of Chemical Regulation



EDUCATION REFORM

Raising the Profile of Chemical Regulation



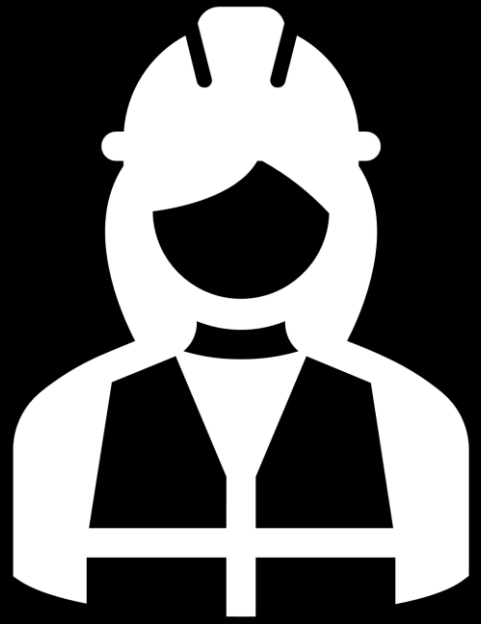
EDUCATION REFORM

Transferable Skills Training

Discussions on Risk Management

Alignment with Industry Trends

Raising the Profile of Chemical Regulation



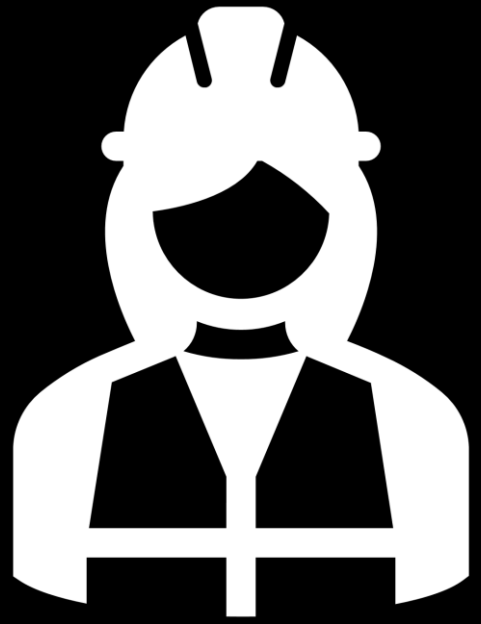
INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

Raising the Profile of Chemical Regulation

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

Courses in Chemical Regulation

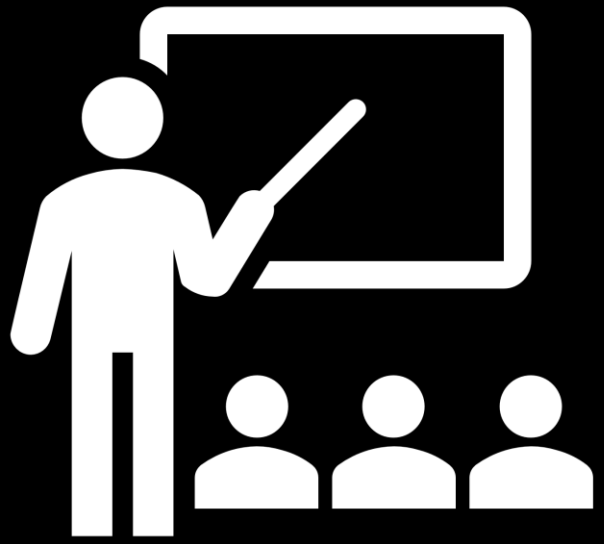
Participation in Consultations/Surveys



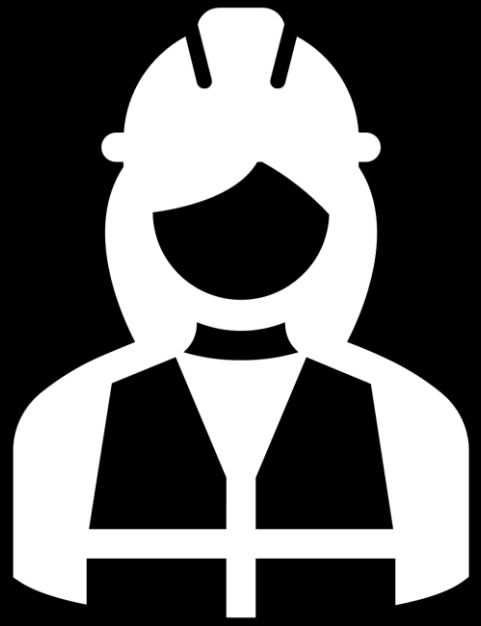
INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT



PROVIDE VISIBILITY



EDUCATION REFORM



INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

ANY QUESTIONS?



Contact me at aoife.mcdaid@wsp.com or add me on LinkedIn

Visit WSP at Stand M120

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