The Swedish defence’s requirements for materiel procurement:

Content of chemical substances in chemical products, goods and construction materials

Purpose
This document is a tool used by the Swedish defence sector when stating environmental requirements for procurement. By stating environmental requirements during procurement the Swedish defence sector will contribute to reduce the environmental impact. A significant proportion of this environmental impact originates from the substances in materiel and the chemical products use for the operation and maintenance of materiel.

Background
Sweden has set 15 national environmental quality objectives. One of these is “A non-toxic environment: The environment shall be free from substances and metals that have been created or recovered from society and can threaten human health or biodiversity”. This objective will be achieved in a number of ways. These include the phasing-out of especially toxic substances in different stages up to the year 2015.

It’s the Swedish National Chemicals Inspectorate that answers for this objective. Their work can be followed on the website: www.kemi.se. The defence sector has objectives linked to the environmental quality objectives that include minimising the use of dangerous chemical products.

Specification for the content of chemical substances

As far as possible all materiel supplied to Swedish defence shall be free from substances that are very toxic, carcinogenic, allergenic, affect genetic material, reproduction, are environmentally-hazardous, affect the climate and the ozone layer (see annex 1, tables 1-3).

Examples of these substances are found in the list of examples (annex 2 to this document). The first part takes up substances that are prohibited by law or which shall be used very restrictively for other reasons. These shall not be included in products that the Swedish defence sector procures. Part two takes up substances whose use is limited by law and substances, which, because of their properties, are undesirable in products that the Swedish defence sector procures. These shall be avoided as far as possible.

It is important to observe that this document does not absolve the supplier from his responsibility to have sufficient competence in and responsibility for his products. The supplier shall specify as early as the bidding stage all dangerous substances that may be included in the products that are procured by the Swedish defence sector.
Guidelines for requirements on suppliers
The Swedish defence sector shall in procurements affected by these criteria state requirements concerning chemical substances on suppliers and materiel. Here follows guidelines for applicable requirements:

Compulsory requirement for all chemical products:
- Material Safety Data Sheets according to EU directive 91/155/EEC
- If necessary, e.g. when chemicals are imported to Sweden, the supplier shall give the information required by Swedish authorities

Compulsory demands on all substances in goods and materials that are supposed to be hazardous to human health or the environment during the lifecycle
- The supplier shall account for the content of all hazardous substances in the system in question, the account shall describe quantity, placing and risks

Compulsory demands on all substances found in the list of examples, part 1 or annex 1, table 1:
- These substances shall not be used in the range of applications specified in the list
- However, if extraordinary reasons forces the use of such substances, e.g. safety reasons, and there are no legal restrictions, exceptions may be possible. This requires the supplier to present detailed information concerning the risks and measures how to lower these risks.

Compulsory demands on all substances found in the list of examples, part 2 or annex 1, table 2:
- These substances should not be used in the range of applications specified in the list
- The use of these substances must be motivated and a risk assessment must be presented