

#### Current events:

- ▶ While articles on issues of concern are provided and links are provided to news sites, these articles are not up-to-date
- ▶ There is no information on current tenders

#### Companies:

- ▶ ChemSource provides a comprehensive list of chemicals industry suppliers and manufacturers in South Africa. This is not currently available online.
- ▶ International suppliers can be identified through chemical industry search engines

#### Chemistry:

- ▶ There is little information on chemical processes and reactions
- ▶ There is little information on uses for chemical products

#### Legislation and regulation:

- ▶ Links on regulation and legislation relating to environmental issues, competition issues, and chemicals weapons and warfare are provided
- ▶ Links to patenting issues are comprehensive
- ▶ There are no links to legislation on labour issues, petroleum, disaster management, health, and industry specific legislation such as the Pharmacies Act

#### Institutional support:

- ▶ Links to incentive providing entities are provided
- ▶ Links to Science and Technology institutions and departments are comprehensive

#### Research and innovation:

- ▶ There is little information on research and innovation, with the only link under this category leading to the National R&D Strategy

#### Health, Safety and Environment:

- ▶ Conventions, declarations and protocols affecting the chemicals industry are provided
- ▶ Information on international initiatives such as the Long Range Research Initiative and Responsible Care is lacking
- ▶ There is insufficient information on consumer safety

#### Format of information

The Chemweb site was briefly assessed according to its design and layout, presentation, and accessibility, and it was found that the Chemweb site is well designed with easy to use navigational aids. The design of the website is aesthetically pleasing, with good use of graphics, colours, and font sizes. The website format could however be improved by:

- ▶ A site map page
- ▶ A more extensive search function
- ▶ Popup windows to explain contents of toolbar items
- ▶ Interactive features (in addition to a contact facility) such as forums, bulletin boards and email alerts could be used to attract more traffic to the site
- ▶ Grouping links at a lower level, and where links relate to more than one category of information these should be duplicated

(The table in [section 3.2](#) below shows the findings in more detail.)

### 3.1 Assessment of content of websites

Content of website		Chemweb	Chemissa	Chem Source	Information gap
Market information	Sector overview	<p>✓</p> <p>Overviews for various sectors, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Exports and imports for SADC countries</li> <li>▶ Share of major countries of total exports and imports</li> <li>▶ Total production of SADC countries</li> <li>▶ Share of total production of major producing countries</li> <li>▶ Total consumption of SADC countries</li> <li>▶ Share of consumption by major consuming countries</li> </ul>	<p>✓</p> <p>Major products listed for 14 SADC countries</p>		Sector information for international markets
	Country overview	<p>✓</p> <p>Brief overview for SADC countries giving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Major economic activities and exports</li> <li>▶ GDP</li> <li>▶ Share of SADC GDP</li> </ul>	<p>✓</p> <p>Including for 14 SADC countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Demographic overview</li> <li>▶ Industry composition</li> <li>▶ Trends in inflation and interest rates</li> <li>▶ GDP performance</li> <li>▶ Trade balance</li> </ul>		Country overviews for potential export markets
	Production	<p>✓</p> <p>High level information for SADC countries on total production and share of major products in production</p>	<p>✓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Production in 14 SADC countries for 11 subsectors</li> <li>▶ Consumption of raw materials for 11 subsectors in 14 SADC countries</li> </ul>		Production of chemicals in potential export markets

Content of website		Chemweb	Chem issa	Chem Source	Information gap
Market information	Demand	✓ High level information for SADC countries on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Estimated total demand</li> <li>▶ Share of major products in demand</li> </ul>	✓ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Consumption in 14 SADC countries for 11 subsectors</li> <li>▶ Consumption of chemicals in end-use sectors for South Africa</li> </ul>		Demand information for potential export markets and markets other than SADC
	Trends		✓ For SADC countries		Global market trends in the chemicals sector
	Trade	✓ High level information for SADC countries on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Total exports and imports</li> <li>▶ Share of major import and export products</li> </ul>	✓ Total SADC exports and imports for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 11 sub sectors</li> <li>▶ 14 SADC countries</li> <li>▶ Major products in each subsector based on HS codes</li> </ul>		Non-SADC trade of chemicals products
	Employment				Employment issues and statistics in the chemicals sector in South Africa
	Health and safety indicators				Health and safety indicators for South Africa and other countries
Resources	Academic	✓ Link to chemicals abstract service			Further links to academic resources relating to chemicals research
Careers	Training	✓ Links to educational organisations, services and to legislation and policy relating to education Also includes links to educational material			Further links to information on available skills

Content of website		Chemweb	Chem issa	Chem Source	Information gap
Careers	Careers and recruitment	✓ Links to career advice sites and recruitment agencies			
Current events	Current issues	✓ Overviews of current issues from industry experts, currently covering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development of the downstream chemicals sector in South Africa</li> <li>▶ An overview of the sector in South Africa</li> <li>▶ Production of fine chemicals in South Africa</li> <li>▶ Health, Safety and Environmental issues</li> </ul> The most recent article however dates from 2002			More recent material on issues facing the chemicals sector – this would require regular updating
	News	✓ Links to general and sector publications			Links to news websites relating to the chemicals sector
	Events	✓ Links to information on upcoming conferences			Information on other events
	Tenders				Details on tenders in the chemicals sector in South Africa
Companies	Suppliers	✓ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Links to companies providing chemical engineering services</li> <li>▶ Links to search engines to identify international companies</li> </ul>		✓ Details of suppliers to the chemicals industry	Information on BEE companies

Content of website		Chemweb	Chem issa	Chem Source	Information gap
Companies	Manufacturers	✓ ▶ Links to major manufacturers in 12 sub sectors ▶ Links to search engines to identify international companies	✓ Major role players in 14 SADC countries listed	✓ Details of chemicals manufacturers/suppliers	
	Distribution	✓ Links to search engines to identify international companies	✓ Major role players in 14 SADC countries listed		
Chemistry	Chemistry in daily life				Chemistry information for people outside the chemicals sector
	Physical processes				Information on physical processes used in the manufacture of chemicals
	Chemical reactions				Information on reactions used in the manufacture of chemicals
	Product information		✓ Major products listed for 14 SADC countries		More comprehensive product information
Legislation and regulation	Patents	✓ Links to relevant sites both national and international			Links to relevant government legislation
	Weapons and warfare	✓ Links to government position articles			
	Competition issues	✓ Links to relevant sites			
	OH, S & E	✓ Environmental Management Occupational health and safety			

Content of website		Chemweb	Chem issa	Chem Source	Information gap
Institutional support	Incentive entities	✓ Links to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The dti website</li> <li>▶ Investment incentives at <a href="http://www.safrika.info">www.safrika.info</a></li> <li>▶ IDC site</li> </ul>			More direct links for sites that provide incentives to the chemicals sector
	Incubators	✓ Link to Chemin incubator			
	Science and Technology Institutions	✓ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Links to SADC Universities' chemicals departments</li> <li>▶ Links to SA Technikons' chemicals departments</li> <li>▶ Links to Scientific organisations, including Chemin, CSIR</li> </ul>			Links to Science and Technology Institutions
Research and innovation	R&D expenditure				R&D expenditure in South Africa and other countries
	Other information	✓ Link to the National R&D Strategy			
Health, Safety & Environment	Long range research initiative				Links to relevant sites
	Hazards/Sustainable Development	✓ Link to hazardous chemicals database			

Content of website		Chemweb	Chem issa	Chem Source	Information gap
Health, Safety & Environ- ment	Hazards/ Sustainable Develop- ment	<p>✓</p> <p>Links to relevant sites on international conventions and dedarations and protocols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Bahia Dedaration</li> <li>▶ Basel Convention</li> <li>▶ Cartagena Protocol</li> <li>▶ Kyoto Protocol</li> <li>▶ Montreal Protocol</li> <li>▶ Stockholm Convention</li> <li>▶ Rotterdam Convention</li> <li>▶ ILO conventions on chemicals</li> <li>▶ INFOCAP</li> </ul> <p>Environmental issues, including relevant bills and white papers</p>			
	Consumer confidence and safety				Consumer safety information
	Responsible Care				Information on the Responsible Care initiative

### 3.2 Assessment of format of website

Format of website		Chemweb	Recommendations
<b>Interactivity</b>	<b>Interactive features</b>	✓ "Contact us" feature	Provide more interactivity, e.g. in the form of a forums, bulletin board, email alert for new information, or online surveys
<b>Design</b>	<b>Logical organisation</b>	✓	
	<b>Presentation</b>	✓ The website is unduttered and easy to read	
<b>Ease of use</b>	<b>Toolbars</b>	✓ Toolbars are provided	Pop up information windows could be used to describe menu items
	<b>Downloading speed</b>	✓ Acceptable downloading speed	
	<b>Search facility</b>	✓ Search logic is acceptable	The search function should be immediately accessible on the home page
	<b>Contact email</b>	✓	
	<b>Navigational aids</b>	✓ Good use of graphics as navigational aids No site map to aid navigation	Include site map
	<b>Links</b>	✓ Descriptions of links are provided Links are grouped on a high level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Links should be organised into clear categories</li> <li>▶ Links should be duplicated where the subject matter falls into two categories</li> <li>▶ Sites should be described in greater depth</li> </ul>