



i2a News

July 2014

Derogation obtained for ATO in EU Ecolabel

Since Q4 2011, i2a is actively contributing to the revisions of the EU Ecolabel criteria for Textile and Bed Mattresses (and since Q1 2013 also for 'Television and Computer Displays' and 'Personal and Notebook Computers'). Using scientific data, we aim to have antimony trioxide (ATO) removed from the 'List of Restricted Substances' for use as flame retardant synergist (which was so far not possible due to the R40/H351 classification of ATO). Basis is the fragment in the Ecolabel legal text saying that derogations can be assigned if the properties change upon processing so that the identified hazards no longer apply. In the revised criteria for Textile and Bed Mattresses, published in June 2014, this derogation is officially included! Meaning



that ATO can continued to be used in textile by companies intending to apply for an Ecolabel certification! In the meantime, this sets a strong precedent for the revision of the Ecolabel criteria for TV/PC, which is currently ongoing and where we aim for a similar derogation.

i2a currently has 43 members worldwide: 39 full members and 4 associate members. Although we already represent more than 80% of the global antimony industry, our aim for 2014 is to reach out to all miners, producers, traders and even users of antimony and antimony compounds in order to deal with international EHS issues together. As i2a is a non-profit organisation, the more companies join, the less everybody pays and the better i2a can defend the EHS interests of the antimony industry worldwide.

REACH like systems to be monitored

Eight i2a antimony substances have been registered under EU-REACH by the respective Lead Registrants. On a yearly basis, i2a checks if there is a need to update the dossiers to remain REACH compliant. Assessments of all i2a antimony substances show they can safely be produced and used by the workers and the downstream users if the described risk management

measures (like masks, gloves and/or exhaust ventilation) are taken into account. None of our antimony substances have classifications that trigger nomination as Substance of Very High Concern, restriction or authorisation under EU-REACH. We don't have UVCB's (substance of unknown or variable composition) that require quite some resources to submit a dossier under EU-REACH.

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However, in many areas worldwide, EU REACH-like systems are appearing that affect our members' business (e.g. Korea, China, Japan, Turkey...). i2a also focuses on these REACH-like systems and offers our help and coordination to the i2a members. The Korean REACH system that comes

into force on 1 January 2015 is high on our agenda. Companies intending to REACH register (either in Europe or beyond) one of the i2a substances are hereby invited to contact us as soon as possible to discuss the options of obtaining legitimate access to the relevant REACH registration data

Press release: industry urges regulators to give full recognition to the OSOR principle ('One Substance, One Registration')

i2a is faced with a free rider who REACH registered a substance (antimony trioxide, 'ATO', CAS 1309-64-4) by opting out from the existing REACH dossier of ATO. The company opened a second joint submission and copied the available data from the internet. For a substance like ATO that went through a Risk Assessment under the ESR 793/93, underwent an OECD screening and has all data disseminated on the ECHA website since 2010, this is not a difficult task. Many discussions with Eurometaux, ECHA, the EU Commission, and the Italian REACH enforcer have taught us that this

is considered by authorities an illegal use of opt-out and an illegal use of multiple joint submissions. Our press release on this issue can be found on our website (publications page). i2a is firmly committed to the principle and practice of submitting and maintaining high quality registration files; to ensuring that investment in the SIEF process, and especially compliance with the OSOR principle, is respected by all current and potential REACH registrants; and that the enforcement systems weeds out free riders in an effective and consistent manner across the EU Member States.

Focus on downstream user communication in 2014



After having spent a big part of i2a's activities during the last 13 years on successfully gathering and generating scientific data, our focus in

2014 will be on communicating the results of that scientific work to our downstream users. Letters have been sent by our members to their downstream users and the downstream user associations have been contacted by the i2a secretariat. Conferences have been attended by i2a and/or its members to spread our main messages about antimony and antimony compounds:

- Many years of industrial experience and scientific facts demonstrate safety and efficacy.
- There are no scientific reasons to avoid or replace antimony and antimony compounds. They are safe to use in all identified downstream uses.
- The safety of antimony and compounds has been assessed and confirmed by authorities worldwide, it is not just a claim that industry is making.

i2a members can easily be recognised by the i2a label representing the company's corporate responsibility and constant investment in the environment and human health, safety and regulatory compliance on a global scale.



Upcoming events

5 November 2014:
i2a Board of Directors (BOD) meeting in Brussels

6 November 2014:
i2a General Assembly (GA) meeting in Brussels



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