International ANTIMONY OXIDE Industry Association

IAOIA News

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EU Risk Assessment - timing and outlook

Nov/Dec.:	Possible new draft Health effects report
March 2007:	Possible final Environment and Health discussion at Technical Committee (TC-NES)
April 2007:	Planned cut-off date for start of REACH implementation
June 2007:	Earliest schedule for **FINALISATION OF RISK ASSESSMENT**

Dates for Your Diary

12-14 Dec:	PET 2006 conference in Amsterdam
19-20 April 2007:	IAOIA meeting in Antwerp

Emission Data Gathering from Downstream Users Successful

Thanks to the cooperation of our customers, we have been able to provide the EU risk assessment rapporteur with a more complete dataset for calculating occupational as well as environmental exposure. It is expected that this will result in a realistic calculation of lack of risk for health and reduced risks for the environment.

Data demonstrates reduced occupational exposure:

- We were able to obtain 63% volume coverage for the data gathering on occupational inhalation and dermal exposure. The 63% total coverage of the annual consumption of ATO is a clear demonstration of the huge effort invested, which has enabled a representative picture of the entire ATO downstream user industries to be derived.
- While previous occupational exposure data was able to make a clear distinction between the formulation, processing and finishing stages, now the level of resolution has been enhanced, thus minimising uncertainty.
- We expect that the proposed values (which are now ALL below 0.5 mg/m^3, the official OEL, occupational exposure limit) for risk characterisation in the submitted human health exposure reports will replace the current model default values of the first draft Risk Assessment Report.

Data demonstrates reduced environmental exposure:

- As far as environmental exposure is concerned, for most sectors, information was submitted by site for the major processing countries (i.e. Germany, France, Italy and UK). Representativity and completeness of the available data is strongly sector dependent. Due to a lack of sufficient emission factors, not only site specific, but also generic exposure scenarios had to be calculated.
- All risks were removed for most of the downstream user sectors. Risks to water, soil and sediment remain however for the textile sector. The glass sector keeps the risk to sediment. To solve this issue and turn remaining conclusion iii (risk reduction needs) into conclusion ii (no risks) data on river flow rates and confirmation that sludge is not spread to agricultural land will need to be gathered.

More detailed information is available in the reports, which can be obtained at simple request. (kvdv@iaoia.be)

IAOIA hereby would like to thank you all for your cooperation!

Preparation for REACH

REACH will be implemented in April 2007. Just like other industry associations, IAOIA is preparing for REACH and is exploring the potential for REACH consortia formation. An IAOIA brainstorming meeting will take place on November 30th. Consortia guidelines will be defined and a cost allocation matrix will need to be set up. Our experience with ATO and the existing vertical consortium (ATOS) means that IAOIA is well placed to set up potential consortia on other antimony compounds based on this successful model.

Producers and users of antimony compounds are encouraged to contact IAOIA with a view to organising for future registration requirements.

EU Risk Assessment

ATO will not be on the agenda of the TC NES meeting in December. As our downstream user exposure reports for both environment and human health have been submitted in October and November to the Swedish Rapporteur and as the Rapporteur has not yet revised the human health effects part, the next draft Risk Assessment Report is now expected end-2006/beginning of 2007. Both environment and human health could then be up for discussion at the TC NES of March and/or June. Finalisation of the risk assessment is still expected for 2007.
IAOIA will continue to strive for a good communication and interaction with the Rapporteur. Bilateral meetings before discussions at TC NES remain our preferred option.

Summary assessment of genotoxicity of ATO soon to be published

The results of a study carried out for the EU risk assessment showed no *in vivo* mutagen effects following a 21 day repeated exposure to ATO. The study ("Evaluation of micronuclei and chromosome aberrations in bone marrow of rats") was sponsored by IAOIA in 2005 and will soon be published in the international journal "Mutation Research". The article is "in press".

Updated List of IAOIA Members:

An updated list of IAOIA members is available at www.iaoia.org.
These are the responsible companies that are working very hard to ensure that antimony products are protected in the market place through proper response to appropriate government agencies and development and distribution of reliable data. These organizations share the costs, both financial and through employee time. By choosing to conduct your business with one of these companies you are supporting our industry.
If you are a producer, distributor or consumer of antimony products and would like to contribute to these efforts, contact an IAOIA, JMIA, CCCMC office or one of our member companies.

Organization of IAOIA

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