



New Draft EU Risk Assessment Report (RAR) on Antimony Trioxide (DAT) expected in Nov '05

July 2004: First draft risk assessment report released
September 2004: Industry and Member States sent in comments
March 2005: Genotoxicity discussed at TC NES II
November 2005: Expected release of the second draft RAR
December 2005: Expected discussion at TC NES IV
December 2006: Final RAR?

ATOS: Antimony Trioxide Stakeholders

Last year a group of antimony producers and users, successfully joined forces to form the Antimony Trioxide Stakeholders (ATOS) in order to develop the scientific information needed to carry (di)antimony trioxide (DAT) through the EU Risk Assessment process. Support from the PET industry and Plastics Europe have been very helpful.

Within the last year, ATOS has formulated comments addressing the first draft Risk Assessment Report on antimony trioxide. Several studies have been or will be initiated to fill the data gaps or clarify discussion items on occupational exposure, environmental toxicity and human health in the Risk Assessment Report. Most of the studies will be finished in 2005. So far, the studies have all confirmed that antimony trioxide can be safely produced and used throughout its life-cycle.

First Reaction of Member States

Industry has proposed a step-wise approach for resolving the question of genotoxicity in the current draft RAR. Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, the UK and Hungary support industry's proposal. The proposal includes the conduct of a toxicokinetic study first, which will allow us to proceed on a sound scientific basis towards the future design and execution of another in vivo genotoxicity study or another study.

Results of the feasibility study are expected by beginning of June 2005.

MERAG: Metal Environmental Risk Assessment Guidance Document

Metals and other inorganic compounds can have very different properties compared to organic chemicals, which the current technical guidance for chemical risk assessment refers to. The need for agreed assessments and criteria for metals has arisen due to the development of the European Commission's Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation.

The MERAG (Metals Environment Risk Assessment Guidance) project is building on existing EU and OECD guidance, which the Commission felt, required development and restructuring specifically for metals. MERAG aims to provide the regulatory community at the regional and international level with scientific and regulatory guidance on the most advanced status of environmental risk assessment concepts specifically for metals and inorganic metal compounds. It consolidates existing experience and recent progress made with environmental risk assessment methods, concepts and methodologies for use in Chemicals Management programs and Environmental Quality Standard setting (e.g. soil, water, sediments, ...).

The project was initiated in December 2003 by Eurometaux (European non-ferrous metals industry) and ICMM (International Council for Mining and Metals) and sponsored by the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). In 2004, discussion documents and fact sheets were drafted and reviewed by different stakeholders and a peer-review panel. The project is now in its implementation phase, in which the final MERAG document will be drafted. The implementation phase started with a science consolidation open workshop held in London, 10-11 May 2005. During this workshop, which was attended by academics, regulatory scientists and industry representatives, the fact sheets were critically reviewed and potential needs for improvement of the scientific or technical guidance were indicated. The final TGD-like guidance document for metals Risk Assessment for Environment is expected by the end of 2005.

IAOIA Mission

The Mission of the International Antimony Oxide Industry Association is to serve the common interests of antimony producers, users and other stake holders world-wide concerning the environmental, health and safety regulatory affairs concerning antimony substances and their uses. The activities of the IAOIA are determined by its members, and may include the conducting studies, dissemination of information pertaining to the safety and benefits of antimony substances, and the development of scientific information for the submission to governmental agencies.

1st International Workshop on Antimony in the Environment

Heidelberg, May 16-19, 2005

The University of Heidelberg, Institute of Environmental Geochemistry organised a workshop to bring together scientists and research groups actively studying antimony in the environment. The aim of the workshop was to present the most recent findings and to discuss the latest ideas about Sb in the environment.

The workshop, which was initially foreseen to be small and informal, was very successful with more than sixty participants (32 presentations, 16 posters) from all over the world. Presentations addressed the presence and transformations of Sb in the different environmental compartments (soil, sediment, water and air), atmospheric emissions and deposition of antimony, occupational exposure to antimony compounds and the analytical chemistry of antimony.

The Journal of Environmental Monitoring (JEM) will publish a special issue about Antimony in the Environment.

Upcoming Industry Events in 2005

- June 3: ATOS Steering Group Meeting, Brussels, Belgium
- September 7-9: FRPM '05, Berlin, Germany
- October 11-12: IAOIA meeting, Brussels, Belgium
- December 12-15: Polyester & PET Chain 10th World Congress, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The IAOIA Members

In the USA / Europe organization:

Campine NV
GLCC Laurel, LLC
Penox SA
Produits Chimiques de Lucette
Sica

In the Japan Mining Industry Association:

Nihon Seiko Co., Ltd.
Nissan Chemical Industry, Ltd.
Tohko Industrial Corp. + assoc. Members
Yamanaka & Co, Ltd.

The IAOIA Associate Members

Albemarle Corporation
Dead Sea Bromine Group (DSBG)
Durr Marketing Associates, Inc.
Goldmann GmbH & Co
Helm AG

Dai-ichi F R co, Ltd
Suzuhiro Chemical Co.,Ltd

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 office or one of our member companies.

Organisation of the IAOIA

| Function | Name | e-mail | Telephone |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Chair | Dave Sanders | dsanders@glcc.com | + 1 765/497 6319 |
| Vice-chair | Geert Krekel | geert.krekel@campine.be | + 32 14 601 507 |
| Treasurer | Tom Bellanti | TBellant@glcc.com | + 1 765/497 6159 |
| Secretary General | Karine Van de Velde | Karine.vandevelde@campine.be | + 32 14 601 578 |
| Toxicologist | Tessa Serex | tserex@glcc.com | + 1 765/497 6637 |
| Chair JMIA | Hiroharu Machida | machida@nihonseiko.co.jp | + 3 3235 0031 |