



First Draft EU Risk Assessment Report on Antimony Trioxide released !

The Swedish rapporteur, KemI, released the first non-public official draft risk assessment report (RAR) on antimony trioxide in July 2004. In the report, Sweden has proposed a prohibitive classification scheme for both human health and the environment. Industry and Member States have until 30th of September 2004 to comment on the report to the European Chemicals Bureau. The first discussions of the dossier between European Member States can be expected in December at the earliest as KemI may need a considerable amount of time to revise the report after the first round of comments. The RAR is only a reflection of the Swedish rapporteur's preliminary evaluation of the risks related to the production and use of antimony trioxide. It is not a conclusive document as the report needs to be discussed among Member States and revised according to the outcome of these discussions and the submission of any additional data needed to close data gaps. **This draft RAR has no immediate impact on current uses of antimony trioxide.** ATO producer and applications industries fully support the European Risk Assessment process and are committed to close any identified data gaps and to initiate any additional risk management measures that are clearly justified from a scientific evaluation of the data. The EU Risk Assessment is expected to conclude by end 2005 or 2006. The IAOIA believes that the impact overall on the market should be minimal based on the available scientific data.

Urging China to take up their responsibility in the Risk Assessment process of Antimony Trioxide

In august 2004, IAOIA has urged the Chinese antimony industry once again to join the IAOIA and to take up their responsibility in the defence of this valuable product. Antimony trioxide is currently the subject of a regulatory risk assessment under EC legislation (Regulation N° 793 / 93) that establishes procedures and controls, based on industry participation, for the collection and evaluation of chemical substances. As China supplies the most antimony metal worldwide (from which the antimony trioxide is produced) and is responsible for a large share of the world production of antimony trioxide, it would only be fair if they took up a fair share of the Risk Assessment costs as well. It is absolutely crucial for all producers and users worldwide to participate in the effort to ensure that any assessment of antimony trioxide is based on the best available scientific methods and procedures.

EU Risk Assessment Timeline for 2004

August 31	Deadline for comments within industry
September 30	Deadline for comments to the ECB on Draft Risk Assessment
December:	First discussion of Risk Assessment Report by member states in the TC-NES

Upcoming Industry Events

November 18-19:	IAOIA/ATOS meeting in Brussels
Nov 30 to Dec 3 :	TC NES IV meeting in Arona, Italy : it is possible that the Risk Assessment report on ATO will be on the agenda

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 will be 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.

Antimony Trioxide Stakeholders: (ATOS)

Recently a group of antimony producers and users has made a collective commitment to complete the necessary scientific evaluations needed to carry antimony trioxide through the European Risk Assessment Process. Antimony Trioxide Stakeholders (ATOS) consists of a steering group, a scientific group and a regulatory communications group. In all groups, both the producers and downstream users are represented. The role of the downstream users is now even more important after the release of the first official draft report. With the help of our customers, we will support the further safe production, marketing and use of antimony trioxide. Based purely on scientific facts, ATOS will convince the Member States that any possible risks, related to the production and use of antimony trioxide can be managed effectively without posing risks to humans or the environment. Recent reviews of the toxicology of antimony trioxide by WHO (World Health Organisation) and EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) do not correspond with this first review of the Swedish rapporteur. On the contrary, both WHO and EFSA raised respectively the drinking water guideline and limit value in food related to antimony. Since the WHO and EFSA reports, no new scientific data has been generated which could support the draft Risk Assessment Report's Proposal to reconsider ATO's classification and labelling.

By creating a good network between producers and users, we will ensure good communication and an exchange of data that will be crucial for a positive outcome in the future.

If your company is interested in a positive outcome of the risk assessment of antimony trioxide and would like to help us in supporting the science, please contact one of the following persons:

the secretary-general of the IAOIA, Karine Van de Velde
the chair of the steering group, Geert Krekel
the chair of the scientific group, Tessa Serex
the chair of the Regulatory Communications group, Dieter Drohmann
Their contact details are mentioned below.

The IAOIA Members

In the USA / Europe organization:

Campine
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.
Yamanaka & Co, Ltd
Associate member: Suzuhiro Chemical Co., Ltd
Associate member: Dai-ichi F R Co, Ltd

The IAOIA Associate Members

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

These are the responsible companies that are working very hard to ensure the antimony products are protected in the market place through proper response to all our government agencies and development and distribution of reliable data. These organization are sharing 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/ATOS

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