International ANTIMONY OXIDE Industry Association

IAOIA

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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.

IAOIA Press Release

Commission raises issue of illegal Imports of Antimony Trioxide at meeting with the member states on 26-27 June

Antimony trioxide, a metallic substance used as a flame retardant synergist in furnishing fabrics and electronics plastics and as a catalyst for PET, is currently undergoing a risk assessment in Europe according to the EU Regulation on Existing Chemicals. The risk assessment is being carried out in order to analyze potential impacts of antimony trioxide on health and environment. All producers marketing in Europe need to participate in the necessary risk assessment studies. EU industry is being cooperative in the process via the IAOIA by providing the regulators with information and initiating the required independent scientific research. Swedish officials leading on antimony trioxide's EU risk assessment decided in May to schedule release of a first draft of antimony trioxide's Risk Assessment Report until September; first discussions will take place in December.

The IAOIA is sponsoring toxicology and exposure studies to aid EU authorities in their assessment. Studies of aquatic organisms are consistent with EU labelling criteria which does not require harmful or hazardous warnings. Ongoing health evaluations as well as exposure analyses have revealed that antimony is not toxic to then developing fetus and there is little or no opportunity for exposure from finished consumer products.

The European Union takes the view that all trade in antimony trioxide in Europe has to be supported by scientific data. Antimony trioxide producers and importers into Europe should contribute to the risk assessment research program in order to generate such data and to secure future access to the European Single Market. Through the IAOIA, most producers are complying with the requirements of EU legislation. However, a major part of production is carried out in China and Chinese producers, accounting for 50% of the world market in antimony trioxide, are not contributing to the risk assessment and importers from China are not always complying with the notification requirements. The Commission has scheduled the issue of unsupported and hence illegal imports of antimony trioxide for discussion at a meeting with member state officials, to be held in Athens on 26-27 June.

The International Antimony Oxide Industry Association (IAOIA) is the formal industry body leading on the EU risk assessment and aims to provide an efficient vehicle for all in the antimony industry to share costs in order to ensure that the required data is generated for the European authorities.

For more information, please contact David Sanders, Chairman on +1-765-497 6319 or Karine Van de Velde, Secretary General on +32-14-60 15 78.

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EU Risk Assessment Update

The rapporteur for the ATO risk assessment, KemI (Swedish Environmental Agency) has postponed the release of the draft risk assessment from June 2003 to December 2003. Accordingly, the in-depth discussion of the draft risk assessment by all the member states is postponed to March 2004.

The IAOIA has submitted studies on soil and sediment dwelling organisms as well as algae and bacterial inhibition. Studies nearing completion are the teratogenicity study in rats and a study to assess the potential for consumer exposure for furniture fabric treated with flame retardant formulations containing Sb_2O_3. Preliminary results from these studies show that ATO is not toxic to the developing fetus and there is minimal to no potential for exposure from end consumer-use products. The IAOIA will begin a study this summer to assess the effects of long term exposure to ATO in aquatic species. Additionally, we are considering additional studies in soil and sediment-dwelling organisms to further confirm that ATO is not hazardous to these organisms.

Studies in Progress

The following is a list of studies currently in progress at the IAOIA. The results of these studies will provide the accurate quantified data needed by our regulatory agencies and our industry to make scientifically based decisions.

Study Title	**Progress**
Nitrogen transformation test	Study complete and submitted to rapporteur. Result: antimony trioxide does not inhibit nitrogen transformation activity of soil organisms.
Enchytraeidae Reproduction (soil-dwelling oligochaetes)	Study complete and submitted to rapporteur. Result: Antimony is not harmful to soil dwelling organisms at levels expected to be present in the environment.
42-day sediment toxicity with Hyalella azteca (sediment-dwelling amphipod)	Study complete and submitted to rapporteur. Result: Antimony is not harmful to sediment dwelling organisms at levels expected to be present in the environment.
21-Day Daphnia Reproduction Study	Study initiated, results expected in September 2003. This study will examine the effect of antimony on aquatic invertebrates.
Teratogenicity study	In-life phase complete, preliminary results indicate that antimony trioxide is not harmful to the developing fetus *in utero* when females are exposed via inhalation.
FR Consumer Exposure Study	Data collection phase complete, preliminary results indicate the dermal, oral and inhalation exposure of consumers to antimony oxide when used as a flame-retardant synergist in furnishings is minimal and does not indicate the potential for health risks from this application.

The IAOIA Members

In the USA / Europe organization Members:

Campine
Great Lakes Chemical Company
Laurel Industries, Inc. (OxyChem)
Produits Chimiques de Lucette
Sica
Penarroya Oxide Group

Associate Members

Albemarle Corporation
Dead Sea Bromine Group (DSBG)
Helm AG
Durr Marketing Associates, Inc.
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In the Japan Mining Industry Association Members:

Nihon Seiko Co., Ltd.
Mikuni Smelting & Refining Co.
Nissan Chemical Industry, Ltd.
Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd.
Tohko Industrial Corp.

Associate Members

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

These responsible companies 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.