

Bulletin

REACH Consortium

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Dear Colleagues,

Further tests of FBC ashes ordered by ECHA, which were commissioned to VUOS, are progressing according to the planned schedule. The first results are expected by the end of the year. The progress of research is being monitored by Mr Roman Snop, an expert from CEZ.

We are still awaiting a reply from ECHA concerning the substituting of the lab testing of SDA substance with experts' report, which would be based on the test results of separate constituents of the substance, which have been published in years 2010-2015. It seems to be capable of providing an equally competent assessment, however without causing unnecessary suffering of test animals, being also cost effective.

A revision of REACH Regulation is planned in 2016. We will follow this development and present our conclusions concerning linking of this Regulation with Product Regulations in the Construction sector. It seems that the lack of harmonisation between these two environmental regulations poses a serious threat to combustion by-products. Our tests of classic and FBC flyash, as well as of SDA have demonstrated beyond any doubt, that these substances pose no threat to the environment. Testing the same substances within the system of construction products testing may exclude them from the so called unbound applications. For civil engineering and geotechnical applications in Polish road construction sector this would mean a tremendous limitation and reduction of markets for CCPs. We are currently working on this issue jointly with the Technical Universities of Warsaw and Częstochowa.

With warm regards
Tomasz Szczygielski
Secretariat
REACH Consortium

On October 20 a conference was held on the theme: „**REACH and Beyond – Challenges and Options for Improvements**”. It aimed at drawing the attention in Europe at the issue of safe use of chemicals, while preserving transparency, innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemical sector, in particular of its SMEs, and namely:

- a. A need to action and finding possible solutions making REACH more effective and initiating a new thinking on the future policy on chemicals beyond REACH
- b. Indicating key challenges to effective and efficient functioning of REACH, providing adequate information on hazardous properties of substances, defining uncertainty scope concerning nanomaterials and harmful substances absorbed through the endocrine system.
- c. A political discourse on uncertainties experienced both by the users and businesses, including SMEs, about the consequences of regulatory initiatives, control systems and winding down of production stage, as well as goods imported from outside of EU,
- d. Developing guidebooks and recommendations for the European Commission and Parliament, aiming at improving the functioning of REACH and stimulating the growth of the EU and its inhabitants.

More details and Conference materials are available at:

<http://conferencemanager.events/REACHandBeyond/reach-and-beyond---challenges-and-options-for-improvements.html> ■

European Chemicals Agency is identifying substances posing very high concern (SVHC).

Identification of substances of very high concern

Certain substances, which may have serious and irrevocable impact on human health and environment, may be labelled as the substances of very high concern (SVHC). One of the objectives of REACH Regulation is to provide a means of controlling the risk resulting from the use of SVHC. and, as far as practical, substituting them with other substances.

A Member State or ECHA at the motion of the European Commission may propose to identify a substance to be classified as one of very high concern.

Public consultations

Everybody may give their comments or additional information concerning the applications, exposure, substitutes and threats connected with a proposed substance. The most interested will be companies, sectoral organisations or NGOs, individual citizens and public sector organs.

<http://echa.europa.eu/pl/addressing-chemicals-of-concern/authorisation/substances-of-very-high-concern-identification> ■

On 7-8 October a workshop was held in Helsinki on: „**Soil Risk Assessment**”. This was one of the first scientific thematic workshops organised by ECHA, aiming not only at presenting of already existing solutions, but inviting a discussion between the industry and science.

Details and materials are available at ECHA website:

http://echa.europa.eu/news-and-events/events/event-details/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_DR2i/title/topical-scientific-workshop-on-soil-risk-assessment ■

ECHA is encouraging to verify substances' classification and labelling. At present also the public is being encouraged to verify what current legislation means for them. Information actions are being implemented for this purpose.

An example may be seen in this film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pk46PzqD8Ng> ■

General Director of ECHA Geert Dancet has addressed the European Parliament on what REACH provides to the businesses and what benefits may come from enforcing this regulation.

The entire presentation is accessible at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/committees/video?event=20151013-0900-COMMITTEE-ENVI> ■

On 21 October a webinar for further users was held. It's goal was to make further users aware of the safe ways of using chemicals and passing on the information on this within the supply chain.

Materials are available at ECHA website:

http://echa.europa.eu/view-webinar/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_DdN5/title/downstream-user-update ■

On 28 October, ECHA published a list of new substances which will be evaluated by the Organs of Member States in years 2016-2018.

The list is available at: http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/draft-corap-to-evaluate-138-substances-in-2016-2018-published ■

