



Antimony Trioxide Risk Assessment finalised

At an EU level

In October 2000, antimony trioxide was published in the Official Journal on the 4th priority list of Existing Substance Regulation 793/93/EC. Sweden was responsible for writing the report and industry gathered all required information. Data were discussed at an EU level within the Technical Committee for New and Existing Substances (TC NES). In April 2008, the last discussion at TC NES level was held and the final report was released end of May 2008. The publication of the Risk Assessment dossier is foreseen for February 2009 and will be accessible at: <http://ecb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/esis/index.php?PGM=ora>. This does not mean that the dossier will be publicly available for REACH purposes to potential registrants, as relevant data is owned by i2a members. A detailed summary of the currently available scientific data on antimony trioxide (ATO) is available on our website www.iaoia.org.

And endorsed at OECD level

After the EU approval of the Risk Assessment (RA) on Antimony Trioxide, the members of the OECD also accepted the file (SIAP) at their meeting on October 14th 2008. The approval of the SIAP means in practice that all OECD member states (including those who signed the Mutual Acceptance of Data agreement such as South Africa, Brazil, Indonesia and soon China) have agreed to use this file to set environmental and health standards or to assess antimony trioxide. The SIAP will be made publicly available probably around summer 2009.

Annex XV dossier to propose Risk Management measures

End November 2008, the Swedish Rapporteur handed over an Annex XV transitional dossier to ECHA according to the provisions of article 136 of REACH. This is NOT a proposal for restrictions. This Annex includes risk management measures and recommends REACH, Water Framework Directive (WFD) and IPPC as proportionate ways to handle the risks identified for both human and environmental risks identified in the ATO RA report. It does not propose to add ATO to the prioritisation list of the WFD. The Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL) will be asked to review the OEL for antimony. Industry has voluntarily committed itself to monitor workers occupationally exposed to antimony trioxide. A three-step program has started focusing on measures of primary prevention in order to maintain the levels of antimony trioxide at the workplace as low as possible.

Communication within the pre-SIEF

i2a will help its members to communicate with the pre-Substance Information Exchange Forum (SIEF) members regarding the 13 antimony compounds housed in i2a. An e-mail will be circulated shortly to all ~3,500 pre-SIEF companies explaining that an antimony consortium exists which has data available. Companies are invited to join our consortium to obtain support with their REACH requirements. Furthermore, our members are willing to take the role as Lead Registrant to ensure timely registration (for most antimony compounds this means by the first registration deadline (1 December 2010)).

Revision of the RoHS directive: EC Proposal

The European Commission (EC) has issued a proposal for the revision of the EU Directive on the restriction of hazardous substances on electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS). Whereas the list of banned substances has not changed, the Commission proposes four substances for priority assessment in a new Annex III. These are the phthalates DEHP, DBP and BBP, plus the flame retardant HBCD. All four substances are on the Candidate List to be considered for authorisation under the REACH Regulation. Antimony was not included on the RoHS list and based on current scientific knowledge should not appear in the final proposal, to be adopted by Parliament and Council by early 2010.

Environmental NGO "SIN" list

In September 2008, an alliance of public interest groups, led by the green NGO initiative CHEMSEC, published a "Substitute It Now (SIN)" list of 267 chemicals that they would like to see substituted under REACH. This list includes antimony trioxide under the category 'equal concern'. As stated in press-releases from Eurometaux and from Cefic, "[this list] *does not contribute to a sound and scientifically based assessment of substances as required by REACH. We should rather encourage all stakeholders to contribute to the existing process already initiated by ECHA.*"

Upcoming events – Conferences participation

- 4 March 2009: i2a Board of Directors (BOD) in Brussels (+ 14 October in Barcelona)
- 5 March 2009: i2a General Assembly (GA) in Brussels (+ 15 October in Barcelona)
- 17 March 2009: REACH working group meeting in Brussels
- 24 March 2009: special REACH / GA meeting in China (Beijing)

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