

REACH Club meeting at EH on 9 May 2010 commencing 10:00

Attendance: J Archer (JH), K Tucker (KT), A Zhecheva (AZ), Stephen Barker (SB), B Gay (BG), B Ward (BW), Alison Atkins(AA) and K Hoare (KH)

Apologies: J Humphries (JH1), D Elliot (DE), R Hoodless (RH), G Armstrong (GA), A Phillips(AP), David Fenn (DF),

Please note that these are not minutes as such but a series of notes and observations and represent only a fraction of the extensive dialogue that took place

DE apologised as he was having a conference call with HSE REACH team regarding the standard response letter being produced for SEA members.

Most of those in attendance had submitted the Petition letter produced by MO as requested- CETS members were also doing this.

An email had been received from Nickel Institute entitled “ Authorisation - no listing of nickel salts by France in August 2011!” They were to be congratulated on this but concern was still expressed that another EU country could include these on the candidate list.

The candidate list needs to be understood and chemicals need to be looked at in order of priority. This will impact on the timeline for each chemical and therefore on replacement targets with 5 years being a guestimate of minimum time needed. It was agreed that ideally best process practice should be encouraged in this sector to help to combat the apparent need to ban substances. Small job shop platers were not really helping the cause. The HSE should have a bigger influence on this activity and therefore help the industry sector to clean up its act. More control measurers need to be introduced to achieve this goal.

Authorisation if handled correctly may not lead to a ban but with common sense and a well documented application will lead to supply houses obtaining licenses especially using well documented safety data. The main problems surround tonnage being produced and the impact of small quantities being required making economies of scale an issue. Small companies will only find they have a problem when they need to make small orders. The supply house will need to police the distribution network down the supply chain.

It is believed that ECHA are hoping to list 120 substances on the candidate list by the end of 2012. Therefore there is a need to be constantly vigilant to identify which substances that these will be in order to assess impact on the sector and implement a contingency plan. The EU is dominated by the Green lobby so it must be understood that this agenda will always be followed. Painting formulae is far more complex than plating so it is to be expected that there will be more impact on this process in the future.

The question of whether the current family of toxicological testing undertaken to provide the underpinning concern accurately represent cancer inducing results that are true.

It was agreed that the main issue for industry is really the availability of supply due to economics in the supply chain. It may be that some companies may be formed into groups to act as “stockpilers” of substances to make sure continuity of supply. Standards and specs could also help if they are revised to reflect reality in the manufacturing process.

It is believed that with the influence of REACH legislation, COSSH assessments will need to be rewritten. MSDS's will need to be more comprehensive to reduce H&S risk to employees in the operation of best practice manufacturing process.

Next meeting 8 August at 10:00