

## ***This edition contains***

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## **EUROFER REACH Forum**

The EUROFER REACH Forum was restructured (in February 2010) to anticipate in the most efficient way to address the needs of the EUROFER members. Meanwhile, the restructured EUROFER REACH Forum has proven to work well. Since March 2010, the bi-monthly EUROFER REACH Newsletter has been produced to provide members and the outside world with an update on REACH core issues.

The EUROFER REACH Expert WG has continued to provide input for the registration dossiers of the critical steel related substances (Nickel, Molybdenum, Chromium, Cobalt, Manganese, Vanadium, Lead), making sure that downstream uses are properly incorporated and that Risk Management Measures are appropriate.

EUROFER guidance on the buying of Letters of Access for alloying constituents is on its way. In addition, a EUROFER SIS Task Force was established to develop a template for Safety Information Sheets (for articles).

As a downstream user, EUROFER and its members provide continued support towards its suppliers where their substances have been submitted by Member States/the Commission as Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC).

EUROFER is the representative of the Iron Platform towards the Commission and ECHA. EUROFER REACH staff and some of its members continue to be involved in the development of new, or the update of existing, ECHA guidance documents for the implementation of REACH.

The EUROFER REACH secretariat also formed a CLP (Classification, Labelling and Packaging) Task Force<sup>1</sup> that will deal with preparations for the notification of *Basic Oxygen Furnace* and *Blast Furnace gases*. It will also be responsible for the communication with the so-called R4CC consortium that will take the lead on the notification of *Coke/Coke Oven gas*. The CLP TF will report to the REACH Cluster WG. The Iron Platform will be preparing a paper on the assessment of *iron ore* for the purposes of the CLP Regulation and a group of experts is in the process of being formed to oversee this process.

With the help of some volunteer members, the EUROFER REACH secretariat is currently drafting a document listing the key aspects to be dealt with by the steel sector after 2010 under REACH and CLP.

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## **Iron Platform (IP)**

The Iron Platform now has 68 regular members and two associate members, representing more than 200 million tonnes of Fe-containing substances.

Preparation of the IUCLID 5 (the communication platform for the submission of a registration dossier) dossiers for all substances are now almost complete and preparation of the Chemical Safety Reports is under way with completion scheduled for June 2010. Safety data sheets will follow soon after that.

It is planned that the Lead Registrants will submit the registration dossiers by end July 2010. This gives another 4 months for the individual company registrations. The Joint Submissions (of data) for *Sinter and Pellets* have been created. The Joint Submissions for *Iron* and mill scale will follow on June 7<sup>th</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 respectively. Steps will be taken to merge the Iron and Iron, Furnace SIEF's (Substance Identification Exchange Forum). For those intending to register Iron there will be no change. Those intending to register Iron, Furnace will need to change their registration accordingly and appropriate guidance will be provided by the Iron Platform.

The Iron Platform Letter of Access web page has been updated with all relevant information and the portal for purchase of Letters of Access is virtually complete. The portal is expected to be functional in June 2010. With its launch, consortium members will be advised of the tokens they need. Population of the Iron Platform Guidance web page has started with several documents, (including Guidance on Joint Submission) and other documents will be added as they are completed. A news update was posted on the Home page of the Iron Platform website as well as updated roadmaps for each of the substances the Iron Platform is dealing with.

The Iron Oxides REACH consortium (led by Lanxess) is dealing with the preparation for the registration of di-iron trioxide. The Iron Platform is represented in the Iron Oxides REACH consortium by its secretariat and Dr. Buthe from Salzgitter AG.

The Iron Platform will prepare a paper on the assessment of iron ore for the purposes of the CLP regulations and a group of experts is in the process of being formed to oversee this process.

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## **Slag Consortium**

### **Administrative tasks**

The 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the REACH Ferrous Slag Consortium (RFSC) took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010 in Düsseldorf, Germany. The consortium has now 149 members, which represent over 197 million tonnes (94%) of the crude steel production within the EU 27 in the year 2007.

The SIEF (Substance Identification Exchange Forum) for *electrical arc furnace slag* (EAF) is now divided into the

<sup>1</sup>To deal with the implementation of the CLP Regulation

SIEFs *EAF stainless* and *EAF carbon*, both SIEFs have already been confirmed by ECHA. Lead registrant of *EAF carbon* is Badische Stahlwerke Kehl and ThyssenKrupp Nirosta for *EAF stainless*. ThyssenKrupp Steel Europe AG is the nominated as lead registrant for the slags, ferrous metals, blast furnace (ABS/GGBS); slags, steelmaking (SMS); slags, steelmaking, converter (BOS).

#### Substance identity

Only those slags are registered which are considered as (by-)products and are already marketed today. All slags will be registered as Unknown, of Variable Composition, or of Biological Origin (UVCB) substances and substance identity is only done with regard to production process. Analytical information, mineralogical description and leaching data are used as additional information.

#### Dossier preparation

The preparation of the dossiers is in a good progress. For most of the endpoints, reliable data is available and most of the studies are finalised. The need for an inhalation study was discussed and favoured in February 2010. The study started in March 2010 under the direction of an expert for inhalation studies and the results are expected soon. The work on the IUCLID 5.2 format is proceeding well. Read-across between the slags will be applied as far as is possible. The submission of the dossiers by the lead registrants is expected at the end of August 2010.

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### **German BAUA considers slabs being preparations**

The global industry position that slabs are articles, is acknowledged by ECHA (European Chemicals Agency). As far as the EUROFER REACH secretariat is aware, BAUA (the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) are the only Member State to oppose our position paper. In April 2010, a telephone conference between lawyers from ArcelorMittal, ThyssenKrupp Steel Europe, Salzgitter AG and the German Steel Federation took place in order to check whether the European Steel industry had made the correct interpretation of the slab status (as articles). As an outcome of this telephone conference, a legal study taking on board the ECHA position (slabs being articles) is being prepared. This legal study will be sent to the EUROFER REACH secretariat as soon as the English translation is available.

In the case of a dispute about the status of slabs, German steel companies will go to the European Court.

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### **Kick-off meeting on the way forward for Boron**

The EUROFER REACH secretariat organised a successful kick-off meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010 "on the way forward" for the notification (by 03/01/2011) and registration of Boron (by

01/06/2013 or 01/06/2018 depending on the tonnages) . In accordance with the REACH Regulation, the manufacturers/importers of Boron should take the lead in the reclassification and notification (for CLP) as well as registration (for REACH). In order to secure the future supply of FerroBoron, some steel companies (as downstream users) have indicated a willingness to take a leading role.

As an outcome of the 25/05/2010 meeting, the EUROFER REACH secretariat has prepared a draft preliminary project proposal and conducted 2 surveys. One survey dealing with data collection for Boron on physical and chemical properties, Human Health and Environment. A 2<sup>nd</sup> survey to identify voluntary champions (front runners) for the establishment of the Boron consortium, interest in Boron consortium membership, to identify a leader for CLP notification, a SIEF Formation Facilitator (ArcelorMittal has been volunteering for this position) and a potential Lead Registrant for REACH.

The Boron consortium, open to global interests, is to be established and managed on a day-to-day basis by a secretariat to cover B, Al alloys + B, FeB and NiB. Written offers will be obtained from the different candidate organisations to provide the secretariat of the Boron consortium. The number of pre-registrants for Boron is 617.

The EUROFER REACH secretariat will also seek offers from different well known consultancies for conducting a literature study review/pre-data gap analysis for Boron, for the cost of the contract for CLP notification (including notification dossier in IUCLID 5.2). Assessment costs - including risk assessment and testing - for data poor substances that are not classified (like Boron) below 1000 tonnes is estimated to be in the range of 250,000 - 300,000 Euro.

The EUROFER REACH secretariat will organise "champions" (those companies taking the lead for a Boron consortium) meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at EUROFER offices. At that meeting, amongst others, the champions will decide on the organisation who will deal with the consortium secretariat (based on the comparable offers collected by the EUROFER REACH secretariat). From then onwards, it will be the SIEF Formation Facilitator and the consortium secretariat who will take the Boron issue further.

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### **REACH for Coal Chemicals (R4CC) Consortium**

Only one new element has just reached us compared to the previous edition of our REACH Newsletter. We were informed that the model letter asking partners in the supply chain to confirm strictly controlled conditions has become available.

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