

All Major Fluorocarbons Registered under REACH well before deadline of December 1st

Brussels, 29 November 2010: The European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee (EFCTC)

The members of the European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee (EFCTC) have confirmed that they have completed the REACH registration of all mainstream fluorocarbons well ahead of the deadline of December 1st, 2010.

“In the Fluorocarbon and SF₆ REACH consortium a tremendous amount of work has been done to ensure that the major fluorocarbons are compliant with the provisions of both the REACH regulation and the EU Classification Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation”, said Tim Vink of Honeywell Specialty Materials who chairs the Consortium coordination group. EFCTC members took the initiative to establish the Consortium inviting other potential registrants to join. Under REACH, producers and importers of chemicals over 1000 tonnes per year and have until December 1st, 2010 to register these substances with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). This deadline also applies to substances that are classified as hazardous for certain health and environmental effects at lower tonnage thresholds. For other substances (including some fluorocarbons) the deadlines are in 2013 and 2018.

“One of the key challenges was that there is a wealth of information on the toxicological and ecotoxicological properties of these compounds,” explains Vink. “All these data had to be converted into robust study summaries and included in the REACH registration dossiers. Many studies were conducted under the Programme for Alternative Fluorocarbon Toxicology testing (PAFT, <http://www.afeas.org/paft/>), with the objective of ensuring their safe use.

The key substances that have now been registered by the individual consortium members include HFC-32, HFC-134a, HFC-143a and HFC-125 (the key components for all major Refrigeration fluids). In addition, one or more members have registered other substances such as SF₆, HCFC-142b and HFC-152a. “Downstream users must verify if their suppliers have registered the substances for their intended uses”, says Vink, “if their intended use is not included, we recommend that they contact their suppliers.” This is particularly important for classified substances where an eSDS is required”.

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The intended uses registered by the consortium members can be found at [“Summary of fluorocarbons use categories for all identified uses”](#).

The Consortium has also developed a recommended set of Hazard and Precautionary statements (“H- and P Statements”) in accordance with the CLP Regulation. For single substances, new rules regarding classification and labelling also take effect on December 1st, 2010. For mixtures, there is a transitional period which ends on June 1st, 2015. The recommended H and P statements are accessible via [Classification & Labelling Fluorocarbons](#). “It is important to note that this deadline is applicable for all substances, even if they have a later registration deadline,” according to Mr. Vink.

During the process, the Consortium has kept the SIEF¹ participants informed of the progress to ensure that each pre-registrant has the opportunity to obtain access to the joint registration dossier if required. Further information on the letter of access to the joint registration can be obtained from the consortium manager mailto: fluorocarbon@uk.vironcorp.com.

Ends.

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¹ Substance Information Exchange Forum, consisting of all persons and companies that have preregistered a specific substance