We are pleased to announce that the new EFRA website is under final development and will be accessible very soon in English and in several languages at a later date. Providing you with the latest information which has been updated and amalgamated from the previous EFRA and EBFRIP websites, it will facilitate your search for news, events and latest regulatory data by using a newly designed filter system technology. With its modern look and latest industry announcements, this visually stimulating EFRA website link can soon be added to your search engine bookmarks.

Disclaimer: EFRA has compiled this newsletter very carefully and the present information is believed to be correct. However, this information is not exhaustive and for obvious reasons some complex points had to be simplified.

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We look forward to working with you.
Fire statistics

Reporting

Fire represents a very real and significant cost to a country’s economy and is estimated to be around 1% of global domestic product in the developed world. The importance of collecting fire statistics is widely appreciated and yet only about 20 of the world’s countries’ fire data are presently accounted for in the current annual report produced for UNECE. It is to this end that the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) has received and adopted an important new work item proposal by AFNOR, on behalf of PlasticsEurope for an:

‘efficient, practical, standardized methodology for the accurate collection of data’.

The scope of the proposed project is to describe current terms and definitions used by nations for statistical data on fire incidents. This would involve the development of a technical report, establishing, differentiating and clearly defining key terminology, thereby allowing greater harmony and consistency in a more systematic fire incident reporting process. (As an example; a ‘tall building’ in France has a very real difference in meaning to a ‘tall building’ in the USA or China).

To standardize the gathering, analyzing and publicizing of fire data would enhance fire safety engineering analysis, refine fire risk assessment processes and above all improve fire safety in Europe.

UK Fire Kills Campaign

As part of the UK Communities and Local Government policy, a further national campaign has been launched for 2011-2012 in a bid to bring down the number of people who are injured or killed in accidental house fires, by raising awareness of key fire safety issues and changing people’s behaviour.

ECHA released its ‘Community Rolling Action Plan’ (CoRAP)

November 11.2011. CoRAP specifies 91 substances, including some flame retardants, suspected of posing risk to human health or the environment, which are to be evaluated over a period of 3 years under the evaluation process of the REACH Directive. This draft plan has been prepared in close cooperation with the Member states, taking the agreed risk based criteria into selection. Member states also proposed substances based on their national priorities. The list can be found at http://echa.europa.eu/doc/reach/evaluation/annex_2011.pdf.

REACH

‘Act Now’

Following the success of the conference in September 2011, where Commissioner Janez Potocnik praised industry for having succeeded in submitting 25,000 registrations for 4,500 substances saying; “I’m well aware of the efforts and the hard work behind these figures. Well done!”, the European Commission and the ECHA (European Chemicals Agency), who jointly organised the day, proceeded to launch their new REACH 2013 campaign - ‘Act Now’. This campaign contains information for the 2013 registrants on a dedicated webpage (http://echa.europa.eu/2013_en.asp), including information for downstream users who will need to inform their suppliers of the uses of their substances by the end of May, 2012 if they wish these uses to be included in the 2013 registration dossiers.

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Safety Signs

According to the British Fire Consortium, fire safety signs are mandatory and must be flame retarded. All signs and notices are part of a suitable and sufficient Fire Risk Assessment and should be illuminated to ensure they are easily identifiable and legible. Either the BS (British Standard) or Euro type sign can be used but should not be mixed up.

1 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Environmental Claims-
PlasticsEurope reminds Industry Groups of making substantiated claims

Early in November, PlasticsEurope Executive Director, Wilfried Haensel issued a statement reminding industry of the importance of making sound, scientific based environmental claims for their products. Past experience has shown that previous promotional literature has sometimes included, or even highlighted, phraseology referring to the ‘non-inclusion’ of certain substances in products. Claims such as these, only serve to put a question mark on the substance’s suitability for use, resulting in reduced consumer confidence in some products and in the industry’s commitment to compliance and sustainability.

As part of industry protocol and the Responsible Care programme, Members are committed to only using chemicals which comply with current EU legislation and strongly support the risk-based approach to chemicals management. Haensel also includes a copy of the ‘PlasticsEurope Guide’, which contains and illustrates the ISO 14024:1999 objectives and requirements to making self-declared ‘green’ claims. His letter prompts the Working, Advisory and Steering Committees to regularly remind their customers of these important issues, to ensure that the industry’s responsible reputation is upheld.

VECAP-
Voluntary Emissions Controls Programme

Vecap reports encouraging trends in waste management

This voluntary global chemicals management programme, initiated in 2004 as a result of the UK Textile Finisher’s Association Code of Practice, which called upon the their members to take steps to reduce or eradicate the brominated flame retardant Decabromodiphenyl ether (DecaBDE) emissions, has achieved considerable commitment throughout the international chemicals industry. VECAP, commended by the EU Responsible Care Awards Jury in 2008, is an excellent example of how manufacturers and downstream users can, using a joined-up approach raise awareness of ecological waste management, working together in identifying the real issues that need to be addressed and ensuring successful implementation of best practices.

In its Progress Report for 2010, the VECAP survey reports that in general, emissions to air and water are well controlled, whereas the program identified packaging waste as a potential source of emissions to land and is set to concentrate on addressing this subject. Where a 25kg bag of BFR (brominated flame retardant) can still contain 150g of product after emptying, this can translate into 6kg residue waste per tonne into the environment if it is not sent to a controlled land-fill site or for incineration. The full report can be read on http://www.vecap.info/publications-2/.

EFRA- focusing on Flat Panel Displays (FPD)

As the WEEE Directive recast is likely to be approved early in 2012, industry has acted responsibly and proactively in anticipating and addressing the challenges of this specific waste stream. 2010 saw the start of EFRA’s pilot project in partnership with the industry’s FPD and plastics value chains, to find ways of achieving 100% recycling of the plastic fraction, which is, on average, 40% weight of the post-consumer LCD televisions waste stream. Whilst recycling of the metal element is well advanced, it is the plastic fraction which will require rapid development.

Did you know…

the production of FPDs has rapidly increased from a few thousand in 2005 to 171 million globally in 2010!

The project will focus on the separation of the plastics from the flame retardants, the shredding, sorting and marketing of the recovered substances for reuse in similar applications.

As the CENELEC standard of 2010 requires all external housing of TV sets to be resistant to candle flame, on top of the necessity to flame retard polymers inside electrical devices, this translates into a significant share of plastics containing flame retardants (UL94 V1 or higher).

Recycling- WEEE Directive targets expected to increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Compost &amp; Mulch (%)</th>
<th>Reuse (%)</th>
<th>Energy (%)</th>
<th>Recycle (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>61.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>63.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>66.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data: Huisman & Salhofer.

2013 75%
2015 80%*
Fire retardant materials play a very important role in society. The main drivers are the growing international demand for flame-retardant products as a consequence of more stringent fire safety and environmental requirements. This conference aimed at identifying the main changes and trends on the flame retardants markets and at the development of adequate strategies for today and tomorrow as well as providing a comprehensive update on all aspects of fire retardants and FR additives for textiles, foams and composites.

The International Year of Chemistry

“Chemistry, our Life-Our Future”

Celebrating this 100th anniversary year of both the Nobel Prize in Chemistry awarded to Marie Curie and the centenary of the first of the Solvay scientific conferences. As the worldwide programme, initiated by IUPAC¹, and UNESCO², involving chemical societies, academies and institutions across the globe drew to a close in early December, we report on the achievements and major events which have drawn young people from all over the world, to discover how chemistry plays a central role in their every day lives.

Themes:
The principal theme used to promote the value of chemistry and its contribution to humanity, was the global experiment project – “Water: a chemical solution” - “Save Water to Save the Planet’s Future”. Water experiments have been submitted in their thousands by participants and schools globally and have demonstrated to the students, the power of chemistry in providing reliable information and data within our society and which governs the close relationship between climate change, human health and energy provision.

Events:
The many events held throughout the year spanning global interschool activities, the formation of chemistry clubs, fias, fairs and exhibitions, were highly successful in creating a wide interest and attracting first rate minds to careers in chemistry: Tomorrow starts with Chemistry From 21 to 23 November, industry partners, decision makers, academics and students from around Europe attended an exciting, three-day event and interactive exhibition, organized by Cefic.

Closing Ceremony
To mark the end of the year, a unique closing ceremony, attended by more than 800 people from 70 countries was held in Brussels on December 1st. Following an address by His Royal Highness Prince Philip of Belgium, a team of 13 young scientists gave their views on the importance of the lifesciences, industry and governments roles in tackling major challenges such as climate change and limited resources to ensure a sustainable future for an ever-growing world population.

Upcoming Events 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 18-20</td>
<td>IREC 2012: 11th International Electronics Recycling Congress</td>
<td>ICHA, IG</td>
<td>Salzburg, Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 24</td>
<td>EFRA E&amp;E Workshop</td>
<td><a href="mailto:efra@cefic.be">efra@cefic.be</a></td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 6-10</td>
<td>The John A. Boswick, (M.D.) Burn and Wound Care Symposium</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amauisymposium.com/">www.amauisymposium.com/</a></td>
<td>Wailea, Haw ali</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 6-8</td>
<td>Cables 2012</td>
<td>www2.amplexics.com/Events</td>
<td>Cologne, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 25-29</td>
<td>ACS Fire and Polymers VI conference</td>
<td><a href="http://portal.acs.org/">http://portal.acs.org/</a></td>
<td>San Diego, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 26-30</td>
<td>Wire 2012</td>
<td>Wireworld Asia GmbH</td>
<td>Dusseldorf, Germany</td>
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<td>Apr. 1-3</td>
<td>Busworld Asia 2012</td>
<td><a href="http://www.busworldasia.com/english/">www.busworldasia.com/english/</a></td>
<td>Shanghai, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 16-17</td>
<td>3rd International Conference on Flame Retardants (SKZ)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.skz.de/ev/training/conferences/index.html">www.skz.de/ev/training/conferences/index.html</a></td>
<td>Shanghai, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 17-19</td>
<td>Electrical Connectors</td>
<td>ANI</td>
<td>Cologne, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 26-27</td>
<td>ABA 44th Annual Meeting</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ameriburn.org/44thAnnualMeeting.php">www.ameriburn.org/44thAnnualMeeting.php</a></td>
<td>Seattle, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11-15</td>
<td>7th International Conference on Wood &amp; Fire Safety</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfs.au.com">www.sfs.au.com</a></td>
<td>Stibrlek Piesa, Slovakia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 4-5</td>
<td>113th Brominated Flame Retardant Workshop</td>
<td><a href="http://4f2012.org/">http://4f2012.org/</a></td>
<td>Winnipeg, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9-12</td>
<td>Electronics Goes Green</td>
<td>Fraunhofer IZM and Technical University</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
² United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

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