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EU Live Issues

REACH and Recycled Aggregates

On 23 October, members of the UEPG Technical and Environment Committee discussed the lobbying strategy for REACH and recycled aggregates. To prevent political damage to the end-of-waste discussion and the industry's efforts to promote product status, while ensuring the continued use of recycled materials, UEPG is taking a position which allows flexibility for national associations and companies.



Discussing the way forward on REACH

Chair of the Technical Committee Jean-Marc Vanbelle (left) and Vice-Chair John Lay.

Background

Following the September meeting of the competent authorities on the implementation of REACH, the European Commission confirmed its previous position that recycled aggregates – if not waste – are to be considered as preparation or substance and not as article under REACH. Some countries follow this position and recycled aggregates producing companies would have to make a (legal) pre-selection of their materials.

Pre-selection of recycled materials

The first question you have to ask yourself is whether your recycled material is considered as a product or as waste. If it is waste, REACH does not apply and you do not need to pre-register the material. If it is a product, it is currently considered by the European Commission as a preparation which you have to pre-register. UEPG still defends the position that recycled aggregates – if not waste – are articles and has decided to carry out lobbying actions in this way.

How to pre-register substances in recycled aggregates?

Pre-registration requires only limited data on the substances and there is no fee associated to it. The challenge is to identify the substances contained in recycled aggregates. UEPG recommends to pre-register if appropriate at least ceramics (EINECS number 266340-9) and asphalt (EINECS number 232490-9). This is the minimum list of substances to pre-register. A pre-registration file for a substance consists of:

1. Substance Identity: EINECS number, CAS numbers and names of the substance
2. envisaged deadline and tonnage band for the registration
3. name and contact information of a Contact person or Third party Representative who will act as the contact point in data sharing

A pre-registrant should also provide when applicable substance identification of any relevant substances which may facilitate the risk assessment and data sharing of the substance. EINECS and CAS numbers can be found on the website of the European Chemicals Agency (see link below).

The risk with pre-registration is that there might be a non-phase-in substance which has to be fully registered immediately before producing it and offering it at the market.



Pre-registration can be done on the website of the European Chemicals Agency:

http://echa.europa.eu/pre-registration_en.asp

UEPG continues strong lobbying

UEPG in cooperation with the European Platform for Recycled Aggregates (EPRA) and other key stakeholders will continue lobbying for the end-of-waste criteria and the establishment of a European recycling society usually strongly supported by the European Commission.

Next steps

1 December Deadline for pre-registration

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Natura 2000 guidance paper

During the last expert meeting, UEPG asked the European Commission to reduce the current draft of the guidance paper to 20-30 pages focusing on the interpretation of article 6.3 and 6.4 of the Habitats Directive and providing case studies in a separate Annex.

Marine Aggregates Task Force meeting

On 3 October, members of the UEPG Marine Aggregates Task Force discussed the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the chapter on Marine Aggregates extraction in the Natura 2000 guidance paper.

Guest speaker from the European Commission was Gert Verreet from DG Environment, presenting the progress made on the implementation of the Marine Strategy Directive and the way forward. The industry speakers were Mark Russell, Director Marine Aggregates from the British Marine Aggregates Producers Association (BMAPA) and Frank Devriese from the German Marine Aggregates Producers Association outlining the main challenges for the Marine Aggregates Industry, including the definition of biogenic/geogenic reefs and the restoration of extraction sites at sea.

The Task Force members agreed to provide the UEPG General Secretariat with their contribution for the chapter on marine aggregates extraction. The consolidated version has been sent to Concha Olmeda and Fotios Papoulias, both working on the DG Environment draft document.

Next steps

- 24 November** 4th expert meeting on the Natura 2000 guidance paper
- Jan./Febr. 2009** Final draft of guidance paper

UEPG News

UEPG Committee meetings

On 23-24 October, UEPG invited members of the four Committees to discuss the future lobbying strategy on key issues impacting the sector. The meetings took place in the Brussels' Representation of the German Bundesland North-Rhine Westfalia.

Guest speakers were Fotios Papoulias, DG Environment presenting the state of play of the Natura 2000 guidance paper for the non-energy extractive industry and Jim O'Brien outlining the Cement Sustainability Initiative and the achievements and challenges on Health and Safety.



Underlining the cooperation with UEPG

Fotios Papoulias (second from left) from DG Environment, European Commission as guest speaker in the UEPG Environment Committee.

Technical Committee

Main issues discussed:

- Construction Product Regulation
- Dangerous substances
- European Aggregate Standards - CEN/TC 154
- European Aggregate and Mixture Standards in CEN/TC 227
- Recycled aggregates



UEPG as a guest in North-Rhine Westfalia

UEPG President Denis Mertens (left) and Ulrich Hahn, Director General of the German Aggregates Federation MIRO.

Environment Committee

Main issues discussed:

- Environmental Impact Assessments, European Court of Justice decision 215/06 from 3 July 2008
- Management of Waste Implementation
- Revised Waste Framework Directive
- REACH
- E-PRTR
- Natura 2000 guidance paper
- Biodiversity Task Force
- Marine Aggregates Task Force
- Sustainable Development Indicators
- European Minerals Forum on 26 November 2008, Brussels

Health & Safety Committee

Main issues discussed:

- UEPG contribution to the website of the Agency for Safety and Health at work
- 5th meeting of the Atlantic Alliance on 25-26 September 2008
- UEPG Sustainable Development Indicators
- Ensuring successful implementation of the Social Dialogue Agreement on Crystalline Silica
- Update on the EU Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives
- UEPG becoming an EU social partner restricted to Health, safety and training

Economic Committee

Main issues discussed:

- Geological Information System for UEPG Member Associations
- EU Raw Materials Supply Initiative
- European Environment Agency - Aggregates Tax
- UEPG draft position paper on Market based instruments

All presentations are available on the UEPG website www.uepg.eu – Members Only Section.

Next steps

- 16-17 March 2009** UEPG Committee meetings in Istanbul, Turkey
- 29-30 Oct. 2009** UEPG Committee meetings in Brussels

QPA Health & Safety Awards 2008

On 17 October, QPA held the Health & Safety Best Practice Awards 2008 attended by more than 120 representatives from industry and government.



QPA congratulates employees for their initiatives

Lynda Chase-Gardener, Chairman of QPA (bottom line, second from left) congratulated the winners.

Lynda Chase-Gardener, Chairman of the Quarry Products Association, congratulated companies and employees for their ideas and initiatives improving health & safety at work. Companies with a zero incident rate were published on a list to give further incentives.