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FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Dear Readers,

2014 has been a pivotal year for the European Union with the elections of the new European Parliament and the nomination of the EU Commissioners. For ESIG, it has also been a productive year and in this winter edition of Solutions, we present some highlights of the past 12 months, the progress of our activities as well as some of our future objectives for 2015.

Through ESIG's communication and regulatory activities, ESIG supports a safe and healthy work environment among all users of solvents. In this regard, we have developed a new video entitled '*Solvents – simply essential*'. This animated video explains the important role the solvents industry plays in Europe and the role of ESIG in promoting best practices. We have also partnered for the second time with the European Agency for Safety and Health at work (EU-OSHA), and actively participated in their campaign 'Healthy Workplaces, Manage Stress'. ESIG has also published the flammability guide and will soon be releasing a new DVD on gloves, which offers guidance when choosing the right gloves.

On the regulatory front, ESIG has played an active role in setting up the European technical standards on bio-based solvents and we continue to support REACH and the proper risk management of chemicals. ESIG will keep the good working relationship with ECHA to increase the efficiency and transparency of the REACH evaluation process as well as strengthen the dialog with legislators and the scientific community to improve the quality of data related to emissions from solvents.

Our members have also once again upheld their commitments to work with best practices and this year, two winners have been awarded the prestigious ESIG Product Stewardship Award. The award ceremony will take place in the first half of next year.

And finally, I am delighted to say that I will continue on as Director General of ESIG and look forward to our future collaboration and your strong commitment and support to make the workplace a safer environment.

We hope you will enjoy this year's calendar which underlines the importance of solvents in the aerospace industry sector. We wish you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Antoine Brossier

2015 ESIG CALENDAR – SOLVENTS IN SPACE

Space explorations, stars and planets have fascinated people since ancient times but it was not until the 20th century that exploring space became possible. In little more than 50 years we have sent astronauts to the Moon, robotic spacecrafts to the outer edges of the solar system, and used huge telescopes to look across the vastness of the universe. This year's calendar looks at the role solvents play in the aerospace industry sector providing you with information on their different applications, captured in pictures that tell the whole story of a space mission - from the launch of a space shuttle to its safe landing back on Earth. We hope that our calendar '*Solvents in Space*' will find a suitable place on your desk.



DR ROBERT OADES – NEW ESIG CHAIRMAN



John Greenhough

ESIG welcomes Dr Robert Oades as new ESIG Chairman succeeding John Greenhough who has been Chairman since 2012. We would like to take this opportunity to convey our deep appreciation for John's work. His leadership, talent and drive have been a great asset to ESIG's advocacy, communication and product stewardship programme. John has been working with ESIG Director General Antoine Brossier in many successful initiatives, such as the Responsible Care programme, the Flammability Guide, the Product Stewardship Award and the partnership with EU-OSHA during the campaign 'Working together for risk prevention', to name just a few.

Dr Robert Oades who has worked for the past three decades in the solvents industry, will continue John's legacy. Robert currently



Dr. Robert Oades

manages the product stewardship and responsible care solvents portfolio for Shell Solvents. In his role as ESIG Chairman Robert will be supporting Antoine in tackling the many challenges ahead.

He will be engaging with our members, downstream users as well as decision makers to foster an informed debate about the importance of solvents, promoting best practices in solvents usage and responsible care throughout the supply chain. We very much look forward to working together with Robert over the coming years.

“ I had many occasions to work with ESIG in the past and am extremely pleased to contribute as a Chair to further success of ESIG with a fresh approach coupled with 28 years of experience in this industry. ”

Robert Oades,
ESIG Chairman, Shell Chemicals

ESIG PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP AWARD... AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Created in 1999, ESIG's Product Stewardship Award rewards companies for their outstanding innovative ways of achieving health, safety and environmental improvements in the handling, storage, use and transportation of solvents. The award is open to all sectors and is part of the industry's commitment to responsible and ethical management of health, safety and environmental aspects of solvents throughout their life-cycle.

“ The jury was impressed with the quality of entries to this year's ESIG Award and there was a lively debate when deciding on the winner. In the end we decided to reward two projects – they have very different profiles but we felt both deserved to be recognised. ”

John Baker,
Global Editor, ICIS

This year, we are proud to be able to reward two winners. We would like to congratulate Oleotecnica S.p.A. and Aug. Hedinger GmbH & Co. KG for their exceptional accomplishments. Oleotecnica S.p.A. is an Italian SME manufacturing solvents-based products. The jury, comprised of experts from the European Commission, the EU-OSHA, ICIS and Cefic, were particularly impressed by Oleotecnica's S.p.A. investment in a seven-year project to develop best practices in reducing the environmental impact. Over the past years Oleotecnica S.p.A. has continuously decreased its VOC and CO₂ emissions by introducing solar energy and a modern computerised manufacturing process that also contributes to lowering worker exposure. In addition, Oleotecnica's S.p.A. regular open day events are a great way of sharing best practice and bringing the importance of solvents and their safe handling closer to the local community.



Aug. Hedinger GmbH & Co. KG is a German distributor offering a wide range of solvents including pharmaceutical grade solvents. The jury rewarded Hedinger for its excellent management of the pharmaceutical solvents supply chain using dedicated transport and storage facilities reducing VOC emissions and ensuring low worker exposure. In addition, Hedinger impressed the jury members with its regular and effective training sessions for its employees on the safe handling of solvents and with the quality auditing procedures for suppliers. Hedinger's achievements are easily transferrable within the pharmaceutical industry and other solvent using industries and should inspire other companies to engage in similar activities. To celebrate these achievements, ESIG will hold an award ceremony during the first half of 2015.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT GLOVES? – NEW DVD

Hands are crucial tools we use in our everyday lives. We protect our hands with gloves when it is cold outside or when we use detergents or other chemicals. To ensure the safe handling of solvents ESIG has produced a new DVD to provide guidance on how to select the appropriate gloves for the solvent being used, and how to use the gloves properly to ensure that our hands are protected. This DVD complements ESIG's existing Best Practice Guidelines on the 'Safe use of gloves for the handling of solvents' and accompanying '10 Tips' poster, and will help you choose the right gloves for the right solvent. The DVD includes the video in English, Spanish, French, German and Italian and will be launched at the beginning of 2015.



You can order the DVD from the ESIG secretariat by sending an e-mail to: esig@cefic.be. More information on the Best Practice Guidelines and the

poster are available on the ESIG website: <http://www.esig.org/en/library/publications/best-practice-guides>

REVIEW OF THE CLASSIFICATION FOR THREE WHITE SPIRITS

The Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation for substances and mixtures ensures that all substances, that could potentially present a hazard to health or the environment, are clearly communicated to workers and consumers when placed on the European market.

In the 1990s, the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to review the classification of three white spirits, namely Stoddard solvent, Solvent naphtha and Naphtha at the European level. However, this proposal was rejected due to a lack of scientific evidence. In 2010, EPA resubmitted the proposal and in June 2011, the Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) approved the below classifications of these substances:

- *STOT RE 1: specifically targets organ toxicity due to repeated exposure;
- **H372: causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure.

These substances have been added to the list of harmonised classifications of the CLP Regulation in October 2013.

As stipulated by the CLP regulation, manufacturing companies need to communicate the change in the classification of these three substances to all actors in the supply chain. **All operators placing these substances on the European market need to adapt the product labelling and packaging to this new classification by 1 January 2015.**

Although the Hydrocarbon Solvents Producers Association (HSPA) takes note of the RAC opinion and is committed to implement and communicate these changes to downstream users, HSPA believes that the evidence underlying the decision is inconclusive and therefore does not agree with this classification.

Comments submitted by HSPA to ECHA on this classification include¹:

- There is no direct correlation between illnesses of workers and white spirits. Illnesses caused may have also been associated to other types of substances used;
- There is inconsistent evidence to support the claim that high exposure to white spirits can provoke neurological effects in humans or animals;

- In addition, no neurotoxic or behavioural effects used in the Danish experimental studies were observed. The basis for classification relies on human case studies or epidemiological data, which when reviewed found shortcomings of the epidemiological data available;
- Other studies have also found that the "*weight of evidence suggests that there are no consistent associations between reduced neurobehavioral test performance and low-level hydrocarbon solvent exposures occurring at current exposure levels*"².

While the new classification requirements only apply to substances broadly identified by their CAS number, HSPA decided to correlate the CAS numbers with the new identifiers for hydrocarbon solvents, and to proactively apply the new classification and labelling to this category of substances. This reflects HSPA's strong commitment to the responsible management and safe handling of solvents.

Below are the substances to be classified:

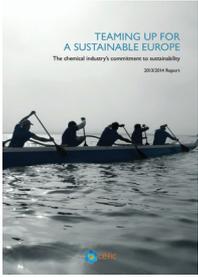
Name	EC Number	CAS Number	Solvent identified by HSPA naming
Stoddard solvent	919-164-8 919-446-0	8052-41-3	Hydrocarbons, C10-C13, n-alkanes, isoalkanes, cyclics, aromatics (2-25%) Hydrocarbons, C9-C12, n-alkanes, isoalkanes, cyclics, aromatics (2-25%)
Solvent Naphtha (petroleum), medium aliphatic [Type O]	919-446-0	64742-88-7	Hydrocarbons, C9-C12, n-alkanes, isoalkanes, cyclics, aromatics (2-25%)
Naphtha (petroleum), hydrodesulphurized heavy [Type 1]	919-164-8 919-446-0 927-344-2 928-136-4	64742-82-1	Hydrocarbons, C10-C13, n-alkanes, isoalkanes, cyclics, aromatics (2-25%) Hydrocarbons, C9-C12, n-alkanes, isoalkanes, cyclics, aromatics (2-25%) Hydrocarbons, C9-C10, n-alkanes, isoalkanes, cyclics, aromatics (2-25%) Hydrocarbons, C8-C12, n-alkanes, isoalkanes, cyclics, aromatics (2-25%)

ESIG will continue to update the solvents industry of regulatory developments. For further information on the new classification, please contact Antoine Brossier at abr@cefic.be or Veronique Schoune at vsc@cefic.be.

¹ <http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/4a7614a7-bb44-42d8-b163-269079686036>

² Gamble, J. (2000). Low-level hydrocarbon solvent exposure and neurobehavioural effects. *Occupational Medicine* 50:81-102.

CEFIC SUSTAINABILITY REPORT – TEAMING UP FOR A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE



Released in October, Cefic's 2013/2014 sustainability report *'Teaming up for a sustainable Europe'* is targeted at the Brussels bubble. The 2014 SD report - a follow-up to the first SD report 2011-2012 - shows how the Cefic Board's sustainability vision has been turned into visible actions. Supported by performance indicators as a proxy of past performances and

commitments to continuous improvement, it demonstrates the contribution to a sustainable European society - by addressing a selection of key societal challenges, and by showing continuous progress in the implementation of the seven flagship initiatives. Cefic's intention is to position the chemical industry as solution provider to societal challenges and a responsible partner towards a sustainable Europe. Paper copies are available upon request. Alternatively the report can be downloaded from the Cefic website on <http://www.cefic.org/CeficSustainabilityReport2013-2014/>

ESIG VIDEO: 'SOLVENTS – SIMPLY ESSENTIAL'



ESIG is delighted to announce the launch of the new ESIG video entitled *'Solvents – simply essential'*. This short animated video explains the important role that the solvents industry plays in Europe, the role of ESIG, its drive to encourage best practices and how it continues to develop innovative and sustainable solutions

for the industry. The video conveys ESIG's commitment to the responsible and safe handling of solvents as well as our continued support for decreasing VOC emissions and reducing ground-level ozone formation.

The role of solvents is illustrated in a funny and dynamic way using modern day graphics and music, with the aim to provide our members and downstream users with a short but memorable overview of the solvents industry in Europe. We hope you enjoy watching this video as much as we enjoyed producing it and that you will share this animation with any interested stakeholders who would like to know more about solvents and ESIG.

You can view and download this video on the ESIG website: www.esig.org

ESIG CONTINUES ITS COOPERATION WITH LEGISLATORS TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

Air quality in Europe has improved considerably since 1990. In fact, the total VOC emissions decreased by 60%. This is partly due to the continuous commitment by the solvents industry and downstream users in all European member states to fully comply with current National Emission Ceilings Directive targets. ESIG supports the NMVOCs (Non Methane Volatile Organic Compounds) proposed 2020 emission targets of the 'Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone' which enables non-European countries to enter into an agreement for emission reduction targets for 2020.

Further reductions of solvents beyond 2020 may however, impact negatively on sustainability. For example, buildings would need to be repainted much more often due to lower resistance to weather conditions, or higher energy consumption would be needed during the drying processes in many industrial coating applications. Furthermore, as significant emissions reductions have already been achieved, going beyond the agreed targets of the Gothenburg Protocol would simply not be technically feasible for the solvents industry.



As the improvement of air quality and reduction of ozone levels is a global issue and cannot be addressed by the EU alone, any new targets should ensure a level playing field between the EU and non-EU countries. ESIG is committed to increase the cooperation with legislators and the scientific community to improve the knowledge about the complex atmospheric chemistry, the quality of data and future air quality.

More information on the Gothenburg Protocol is available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) website: http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/multi_h1.html



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