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## ***EU NCP Update No. 2***

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# **GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE EU NEW CHEMICALS POLICY**

In our EU NCP Update No. 1<sup>1</sup> we reported that in its present form, the EU New Chemicals Policy will require *manufacturers within, exporters to and importers into* the EU to REGISTER comprehensive data about the properties of their product/s, and their impact upon human health and the environment. Draft legislation is due to be published early in the fourth quarter of this year, and IMOA is working to respond to the demands and challenges which this Policy presents to the collective molybdenum industry.

'Chemicals' includes metals and alloys, and for that reason the metal industry has been working closely with Eurometaux who will submit a Position Paper about the EU NCP to the European Commission before legislation is published, to endeavour to ensure that the specific properties of metals and alloys are given proper consideration within the wider chemicals legislation. For a copy of the Eurometaux Paper, please contact IMOA.

In view of the tight timeframes (whereby this legislation comes into force by the latest 2005), IMOA is obliged to start preparing the basic groundwork immediately, but it is important to emphasise that it has to do so amidst numerous ambiguities which persist to-date around the new legislation, in areas as diverse as terminology, testing, costings, implementation methods and enforcement - much remains to be defined ..... and re-defined!

So let's deal with the certainties:

- It is coming ..... and sooner rather than later!
- molybdenum products will need to be Registered
- Comprehensive data needs to be compiled for Registration
- If companies don't Register they can't continue to trade

All basic but compelling reasons, even for the sceptics!

In a reversal of policy to-date, INDUSTRY will now be made responsible for generating knowledge about chemicals. This shifts the responsibility from the Member Country authorities to the industry enterprises, for generating and assessing data and assessing the risks of the use of substances. The responsibility will extend along the manufacturing chain, with downstream users, as well as manufacturers and importers

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<sup>1</sup> Previous editions of the EU NCP Updates are available on the IMOA website (NCP Section).

being responsible for all aspects of the safety of their chemicals, and provision of information on use and exposure for the assessment of chemicals. Producers of preparations and other downstream users will be obliged to assess the safety of their products for the part of the life cycle to which they contribute, including disposal and waste management.

### **So what does all this mean in practice?**

IMOIA, on behalf of its molybdenum industry membership, will start:

- A) cataloging a precise knowledge of the intrinsic properties of the diverse molybdenum products,
- B) further develop its programme of toxicity and ecotoxicity testing, and
- C) undertake product *hazard assessment* and *exposure assessment* in order to produce the required *Risk Assessments*.
- D) Develop Life Cycle Inventory for Chemical Products.

IMOIA will shortly be circulating a Molybdenum Product Matrix to all members, covering primary, intermediary and finished products. Members will be asked to:

- indicate whether they manufacture in, export to or import into the EU any of the listed products,
- indicate whether they produce any product not included in the list (for subsequent inclusion).
- Selected IMOIA members will be asked to nominate a person within their company who will be the IMOIA contact point for EU NCP matters. (This person must have a working knowledge of the EU NCP).

A precise knowledge of the intrinsic properties of molybdenum products is vital as it constitutes the basis for Classification of chemicals, which in turn triggers:

- Labelling - Information about the properties of the chemical and advice on the safe use
- Restriction Measures if the chemical is classified as CMR (carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction). **Remember that IMOIA is currently fighting a proposal that has been submitted to the EU Classification and Labelling Committee proposing that Molybdenum Trioxide be classified as a CMR.**
- Rigorous Safety Measures in respect of occupational health, water protection, waste management, prevention of accident hazards and air pollution.

IMOIA is working to safeguard the interests of the molybdenum industry in a scenario where Sustainable Development is the goal for the European Commission, the EU New Chemicals Policy is the enabler, and the molybdenum industry, through IMOIA, is the facilitator ..... so please help us by responding quickly and fully to the questionnaire you will shortly be receiving.

*Sandra Carey, HSE Technical Committee Coordinator  
IMOIA Secretariat, EUNCP Update 2/June 2002*