

Chris Barrington

From: Chris & Sue Barrington [ipia@pigiron.org.uk]
Sent: 06 October 2009 10:35
To: 'Adriano Clary'; 'Augusto Mendonca Lessa'; 'Erik Scholten'; 'Gerard Tor'; 'Hans Butter'; 'Harry Fisscher'; 'Joaquim Eleuterio'; 'Lee Preziosi'; 'Leonardo Wilken'; 'Magnus Tottie'; 'Nikolay Zaboлев'; PEZENNEC Eric; Rob.Versfeld@corusgroup.com; 'Ronald Jonckbloedt'; 'Sue Hubbard'; 'Ursula Eriksson'; 'Yuri Mishin'
Subject: Pellets conference call minutes

All:

Herewith the minutes of the conference call on October 1st as well as some relevant presentations/documents from Sue Hubbard.

Participants:

Rob Versfeld, Corus [RV] - in the chair
Adriano Clary, Vale [AC]
Ursula Eriksson, LKAB [UE]
Sue Hubbard, Rio Tinto [SH]
Yuri Mishin, Metalloinvest [YM]
Eric Pezenec, ArcelorMittal [EP]
Gerard Tor, Corus [GT]
Magnus Tottie, LKAB [MT]
Maria Beatriz Vieira, Vale [MV]
Chris Barrington, IP Secretariat [CB]

Apologies: Joaquim Eleuterio, ArcelorMittal Mines Canada; Augusto Lessa, Samarco Mineraçao

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION POINTS
1. Agreement on the agenda	GT had previously circulated a proposed agenda - this was accepted by all.	
2. Minutes of the previous call	There were no comments or questions, so the minutes were adopted.	
3. Test results	Corus and Vale had both reported their results on the samples tested for crystalline silica [CS]. It was agreed that there was reasonable correlation between the results of the two laboratories [the detection limit being given as 0.1%]. MV noted that in Vale's analysis, tridymite had reported as quartz. The conclusion of the discussion was that the accuracy of the results was sufficient. A decision on whether to test the remaining samples was left to the end of the meeting.	
4.1 Hazard assessment: CS	SH had circulated a presentation prior to the call entitled "RCS Overview for Iron Pellets" and she talked to this. IMA [Industrial Minerals Association] is very active in the field of CS with the objective of avoiding classification of CS as a carcinogen. IMA has decided in favour of classification in the event that respirable crystalline silica [RCS], classification as STOT RE 1 in case that RCS >10% and as STOT RE 2 in case RCS is 1-10% [below 1% classification is not necessary]. [STOT = specific target organ toxicity]. SH will maintain contact with IMA and keep the pellets group advised of any relevant developments. This will be accompanied by a comprehensive package of practical measures to assist in reducing exposures to RCS. In addition IMA will be communicating this approach widely to other non IMA industries and some EU Member States to gain support for	Action: SH

	<p>this approach</p> <p>SH noted that many industries have signed up to the Social Dialogue "Agreement on Workers' Health Protection Through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products Containing it"</p> <p>The 17 initial signatory organisations represent the aggregates, cement, ceramics, foundry, glass fibre, special glass, container glass, flat glass, industrial minerals, mineral wool, natural stones, mining, mortar and pre-cast concrete sectors - these groups have formed NEPSI, the European Network for Silica. <i>[For more information, see the NEPSI website at www.nepsi.eu].</i></p> <p>Also note that there is a major impact analysis being carried out for the Commission on a number of substances including RCS that were suggested for inclusion in the Carcinogens Directive. IMA will be leading the response to the questionnaire that has been sent out to assist the consultants in this initiative</p>	
<p>4.2 Hazard Assessment: pellets</p>	<p>The first point is determination of the actual level of RCS in the various pellets. Per the test results, the maximum level of CS was about 6%. Following on from this is which analysis method to use. RV reported on the SWeRF method, a scientific and reliable method developed by industry to measure respirable fraction in bulk materials [a document on SWeRF will be circulated as soon as available].</p> <p>It was agreed that a sub-committee of experts from the pellet group would investigate the suitability of SWeRF method for pellets, as well as any other methods available [NB: SWeRF apparently does not work for clays]. This sub-committee would report back in time for the next call.</p> <p>RV has contacts with Ingeborg Pensis of Ankerpoort [a Dutch industrial minerals producers and processor] - she is an expert on SWeRF and CS in general and could be helpful to our investigations.</p> <p>The basic conclusion of the discussion was that we should adopt IMA's position on classification as STOT RE 2 for pellets with 1-10% RCS and avoid classification as a carcinogen [NB: IMA could change its position if there is a major backlash from EU member states]. SH thought that ICMM [International Council on Mining & Metals] would probably adopt IMA's position. The point was made that we should try to obtain tangible evidence of IMA's position, i.e. some sort of documentation - this in order to back up our own case.</p> <p>EP - as a user of pellets - was concerned about the impact of classification of pellets for the steel industry and urged a pragmatic approach. It was not clear what the implication would be and efforts will be made to find out.</p>	<p>Action: RV/Corus, EP, SH, YM, AC, UE</p> <p>Action: RV</p> <p>Action: SH to follow up with IMA</p> <p>Action: RV</p>
<p>5. Exposure assessment</p>	<p>RV began by noting that collectively we have a problem with RCS with respect to employee exposure. He suggested that we should start to draft a plan for collecting appropriate exposure data and offered to prepare such a draft - which offer was accepted by all.</p> <p>All participants were requested to check what exposure data [and measurement processes] they have available [LKAB has data for</p>	<p>Action: RV</p> <p>Action: all</p>

	quartz, Vale has some data from its mining operations which might be relevant, Metalloinvest may have some downstream user data].	
6. Further testing	<p>It was agreed that for the sake of completeness the following samples would be tested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Samarco sample [by Corus and Vale] • 2 LKAB samples [by Vale] • 1 QCM acid grade pellets sample [by Corus and Vale] • Ukrainian [Poltava] high silica pellets ex voestapline [by Corus] 	Action: CB to arrange QCM samples with AM Mines Canada
7. Next call	Friday November 13 th 2009 at 15.00 hrs European time	

Best wishes

Chris Barrington

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