Chris Barrington

From: Chris & Sue Barrington [ipia@pigiron.org.uk]
Sent: 13 July 2009 17:12
To: 'Adriano Clary'; 'Augusto Mendonca Lessa'; 'Erik Scholten'; 'Hans Butter'; 'Harry Fisscher'; 'Joaquim Eleuterio'; 'Lee Preziosi'; 'Leonardo Wilken'; 'Magnus Tottie'; 'Nikolay Zabolev'; Rob.Versfeld@corusgroup.com; 'Ronald Jonckbloedt'; 'Sue Hubbard'; 'Ursula Eriksson'; 'Yuri Mishin'
Cc: 'Pezennec Eric'; 'Adams, William (HSE)'; 'dominic.filion@sympatico.ca'
Subject: Conference call summary

All:

Summary of today's conference call is as follows:

Crystalline silica content of various pellets:

- Metalloinvest [per email]: <0.05%
- Corus: believe <0.1%
- IOC/Rio Tinto: <5% in regular pellets, <1% in low silica pellets
- AM Mines Canada: no figures available, although a special concentrate product used in shot blasting had <0.3%
- Vale: standard fluxed pellets <0.1%, but could be >0.5% in high silica pellets - depends on silica content of the pellet feed and the additives, grain size of the silica, firing time and temperature
- Samarco: no data available but running some tests - understands that respirable crystalline silica is below 10 microns

Sue Hubbard reported on a programme by the Industrial Minerals Association on crystalline silica:

- How to define respirable crystalline silica
- How to measure it

She will provide a summary of the recent IMA meeting in this respect and check into any guidance now available.
Rio Tinto will classify all substances with >0.1% crystalline silica.

JE observed that different pellets have different dusting characteristics, e.g. during vessel discharge and in the smelting process.

It was agreed that we will have to do some tests - internally at first. The question is, where and with what test methods? All participants to advise the secretariat of testing facilities available in their organisations and test methods used for crystalline silica - this information to be circulated after collation. It would make sense to test pellets with the highest silica content - some Brazilian pellets run to 6%, some Canadian pellets to 4.5-5% and some Russian pellets apparently to as much as 10%.

Once we have all the above information [feedback from IMA, testing facilities and methods] another call will be scheduled.

Best wishes
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