

Name
Company
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Date

Dear

Re: Substance Information Project

As you will be well aware, the EU aims to pass its new chemicals legislation commonly known as REACH in the spring of 2007. Once this legislation comes into force, there are a number of timed deadlines for pre-registration, registration etc. which will need to be met by Industry.

In view of these approaching demands, the Board of Directors of the CDI believe that there is an urgent need to define the precise role that the CDI will play within REACH and to ascertain how the Cobalt industry is likely to organise itself. To this end, a Task Force has been set up to make recommendations on this issue. The Task Force aims to make recommendations to the Board of Directors at its May 2007 meeting and has set up two projects to gather the information needed to make this decision. The first of these projects aims to gather information on the substances which CDI members are planning to register. The second project will look at the uses of these substances and a further questionnaire on this issue will follow in late 2006 or early 2007. This data will enable the Task Force and Board of Directors to see how much work will need to be done by the Cobalt industry in REACH and allow decisions on how to allocate roles between the CDI and the companies. To put this project in the context of REACH's timeframe, Pre-registration, the first step of REACH for the companies, will occur between April and October 2008.

The questionnaire accompanying this letter deals with the first of the projects. Its aims are:

- The identification of substances the companies planned to register;
- The impurities present, as this can affect the classification and labelling of a substance under REACH, and whether it goes forward to Authorisation; and
- The Classification and Labelling given to each substance by the company, as one of the aims of REACH is to harmonise such classifications

The information gained from these questionnaires will allow the CDI to consider the best way for the Cobalt Industry to align itself in consortia for the registration of its substances. Due to the time constraints of the legislation, it is aimed to have this project completed by the end of the year and for this to be possible, **the CDI request that companies fill in the questionnaires and return them before 15 September 2006. Those substances received after this date will not be considered in this project.**

All responses to the questionnaire will be kept strictly confidential and presented in such a way as not to identify the companies concerned. In the event of a substance only being advised by one company, the company would be contacted to determine whether or not they wished this substance to be included in the exercise.

A questionnaire should be filled in for each cobalt based substance which you produce or import in quantities over a tonne per year, Whilst there is the opportunity to put in concentration ranges, it is suggested that if you sell separate 'grades' of a product/substance, then a separate questionnaire is filled in for each. Information on the CAS numbers, EC numbers and current classification and labelling recommendations can be found at www.thecdi.com/SIP. It should also be borne in mind that if you create or import concentrates these are classified as substances, so a questionnaire should be filled out for each of these too.

I would be grateful if you would complete the questionnaire and return it to Ryan Welton at the CDI as soon as possible but no later than 15 September 2006.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ryan (rwelton@thecdi.com) or myself (mhawins@thecdi.com) with any questions on this project.

Yours sincerely

Michael Hawkins
General Manager