



**International Cadmium Association**

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## **PROGRESS REPORT No.1**

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### **Next ICdA meeting:**

- The next ICdA meeting will be held on **April 19<sup>th</sup> 2005** in **San Luis Potosi, Mexico**, in combination with the lead and zinc technical workshops and IZA/LDIA environment committee meetings.
- In addition, there will be a brief information session on cadmium on Monday evening, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at the end of the technical workshop on zinc.
- Furthermore, a tour of a zinc/cadmium refining plant will be organized on Tuesday afternoon after the ICdA meeting in the morning.

### **EU Pigment meeting:**

- ICdA organised a EU Pigment Management meeting based on the expressed need for focused activity to protect their market
- The meeting was held on February 11<sup>th</sup> and included representatives from the 3 major cadmium pigments manufacturers in Europe
- Issues for 2005 were discussed and actions and priorities were identified.

### **North American Cadmium Coatings Meeting:**

- A presentation on cadmium coatings was made at the Annual Convention of the National Association of Metal Finishers (NAMF)
- Approximately 30 to 40 cadmium platers were present, and expressed generally steady cadmium coatings business in the aerospace, electrical and fastener sectors
- While somewhat concerned with EU cadmium product prohibition proposals, North American cadmium platers seemed more concerned with rising prices and availability

### **Communications Pamphlets:**

- The Revisions of the pamphlet on general information on cadmium 'Cadmium - a Problem of the Past, a Solution for the Future', is now completed and entitled "Cadmium – A Sustainable Future". It will be posted on the ICdA members only website shortly. A distribution list is now being compiled.
- Sector-specific pamphlets on each of the three major consuming sectors (batteries, pigments, coatings) are now in progress.

### **ICdA North America**

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## **ACTIVITY UPDATE**

### **Regulatory Affairs – Europe**

#### EU Cadmium Risk Assessment :

- Human Health:
  - The Official Journal Drafts related to the human health risk assessment reports on cadmium and cadmium oxide have been submitted to TC NES and CA for final approval in February 2005. To this end, ICdA has submitted comments to provide further clarification on the conclusions.
- Environment:
  - a revised final draft has been submitted by the Rapporteur on the 3 March '05. This will be posted on the members only website shortly. There is now a final 4-week written procedure. ICdA will review the dossier and provide comments by the end of March.
- Targeted Risk Assessment on Batteries:
  - a revised final draft is expected beginning of March 2005. It has not been received yet. There will then be a final 4-week written procedure.

#### EU Cadmium Risk Assessment – Update on “conclusion (i) work”:

- Conclusion i) work on ‘Bioavailability of cadmium in sediments’:
  - The Belgian Rapporteur has revised the final report by EURAS entitled ‘Bioavailability of cadmium in sediments’ which provides evidence that the AVS model works for cadmium, and provides a method by which the model can be used in the risk assessment.
  - The Rapporteur has endorsed the conclusion i) work as conducted by industry, and has now sent it out for comments by written procedure to the members of the TC NES.
  - Next steps:
    - Whereas conclusions are now labeled as ‘conclusion i) for sediments in the risk assessment reports (environment and TRAR), these will now be assessed as ‘risk’ or ‘no risk’ based on the effects of integrating the AVS model.
  - ICdA is following the integration of the AVS model into the risk assessments closely to ensure a proper integration of the model.
- The conclusion i) work on ‘Ecotoxicity of cadmium in very soft water’: ICdA has requested that the Rapporteur organises an informal meeting in early 2005 in order to come to a compromise on this issue. ICdA will stick to its position that a tiered approach be used, with as a first step, to assess whether the further testing as proposed will alter the risk assessment conclusions.

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#### EU Cadmium Risk Reduction Strategy :

- The Rapporteur (Belgium) has sent an official request for an update of the production and emission figures as a first step within the risk management procedure.
  - Whereas most companies have submitted Questionnaire PART 1 (related to exposure in the workplace and to workers), PART 2 of the Questionnaire (emissions to the environment) remains to be filled. There is a March 15 deadline for this data submission.
- Risk Reduction Process
  - The Rapporteur's first task in the risk reduction strategy is to review all existing legislation in the EU and worldwide related to cadmium.
  - A meeting between the Rapporteur and the Commission is planned for April-May at which the Rapporteur will review its risk reduction strategy intention with the Commission.
  - ICdA has asked to also be present at this meeting. It is important in order to ensure that the strategies being proposed are indeed necessary and feasible. A representative(s) from each sector is also encouraged to participate.

#### EU Battery Directive :

- The European Council has proposed a partial ban, targeting the NiCad batteries in portable/sealed batteries.
- A second reading at Parliament will take place during the course of 2005 or 2006, at which the final decision on the Battery Directive will occur.
- ICdA continues to assist Recharge<sup>1</sup> in its advocacy efforts, by promoting the findings of the draft Targeted Risk Assessment for NiCd Batteries.

#### EU RoHS Directive :

- Within the framework of the Stakeholders consultation on the RoHS Directive, ICdA submitted a request for an additional exemption for cadmium used in pigments consistent with the current exemption granted to the cadmium coatings, and consistent with the prohibitions and exemptions listed under Directive 91/338
- The Stakeholder consultation ended on February 14<sup>th</sup> 2005. The Technical Advisory Committee on the RoHS Directive are now in the process of reviewing the additional requests. The review process is expected to take about 2 months.
- ICdA is continuing to monitor the process.

#### Water Framework Directive :

- Further delays have been reported in the submission of the Commissions' proposal on the Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) for priority hazardous and priority substances.
- Cadmium is classified as a 'Priority Hazardous Substance', which entails strict reduction measures including a target of "cessation of emissions" by 2026.

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<sup>1</sup> European Association representing the Portable Rechargeable Batteries industry (replaces the Collect NiCad Association)

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- ICdA attends the 'Expert Advisory Forum' in which the technical discussions on the EQS occur. The next meeting that was planned for mid-March 2005 has been further postponed, possibly to June 2005.

## **Regulatory Affairs – North America**

### Status of U.S. EPA Framework for Metals Risk Assessment

The U.S. EPA completed its nomination of a Science Advisory Board (SAB) to review their Metals Framework proposal. The SAB met for the first time on February 1-3, 2005 and criticized the Metals Framework document in several respects. While the environmental chemistry and ecotoxicity sections of the document were not challenged, the human health sections were harshly criticized. The document as originally issued was quite favorable to industry's positions on many issues, but it now appears as if there will be reconsideration of at least the human health section and possible simplification and rewriting of major parts of the document. The SAB Report on the Framework will urge EPA to simplify the document, present fewer recommendations and fundamentally revise the human health section. Thus, while the SAB review has moved the Framework forward towards a final Metals Framework that rejects the use of BAF/BCF and PBT approaches for metals, questions remain about human health bioaccumulation issues related to metals. International Cadmium Association is continuing to work through the North American Metals Council to affect the outcome of this issue.

### U. S. State Proposals on Electronics Waste

State lawmakers have introduced 23 new electronics waste bills in 16 U.S. states since the beginning of the year. While many of these proposals are expected to merely mimic the existing California legislation which is targeted specifically on cathode ray tubes and cellular telephones, others may also contain language comparable to that in the EU WEEE and ROHS Directives. These proposals are being analyzed and tracked carefully by the battery and electronics industries in the USA, but it is clear that cadmium product prohibitions may arise in some U.S. states.

## **Regulatory Affairs – International**

### UNEP Heavy Metals Program –

- Based on a proposal by Switzerland and Norway, the February meeting in Nairobi concluded that cadmium and lead be included in the scope of the Long-Range Trans-boundary Pollutant heavy metals needing to undergo global assessments.
- A full report of the meeting has been sent around to members and describes in detail the discussions at the meeting.
- A proposal by the United States for partnerships with industry rather than international binding agreements received a surprising amount of support, particularly from some Third World countries.

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- ICdA will contact the UNEP Chemicals unit to ensure that the scope of the cadmium global assessment focuses on a proper allocation of cadmium emissions to all of their proper sources and not exclusively on cadmium products.

#### UNECE Heavy Metals Protocol –

- The first meeting of the UNECE Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) Task Force on Heavy Metals (TFHM) will be held in Berlin on March 16-18 2005.
- There has been considerable discussion in the former Expert Group meetings concerning the addition of new metals and products to the Protocol, and on establishing a critical loads/critical limits and effects-based approach to the Heavy Metals Protocol.
- ICdA will be attending the meeting and will be making a presentation under the agenda item “Other metals/ Products/ Product groups”. The presentation will consist of a summary of the EU cadmium risk assessment and other studies on the relative contribution of different sources of cadmium to human exposure, showing that products constitute only a very small contribution to the total emissions and exposure to cadmium.

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