

Newsletter of July 31th, 2008

1.

Excess of processors in WEEE!



- There are more Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) processing facilities available than there is WEEE!
- The downturn in the economy may have contributed to a lack of WEEE!

WEEE处理能力过剩!

- 废电子电器产品的处理能力超过废电子电器产品本身!
- 低迷的经济可能会导致废旧电子电器产品不足!

There are more Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) processing facilities available than there is WEEE, according to the general manager of a Hampshire-based WEEE recycling firm.

Speaking to MRW Midex general manager Chris Spooner said that the market is becoming more saturated and that there is more processing capacity available than there are the WEEE tonnages to process.

He said: "There are quite a lot of tonnages in relative terms and there is plenty of processing in the UK. Over the past year facilities have increased and everyone has become WEEE savvy. There has got to come a time where there may be possibly more facilities than there is WEEE coming in, which will drive the price of the materials down."

Midex is a small firm and some of its clients include Odeon UCI and Slough Borough Council. It collects end of life IT and recycles it. Computers are de-bulked and broken down into component parts. Materials such as iron, steel, aluminium and copper are extracted from the remaining waste.

In the first six months of the operation of the WEEE system 45,000 tonnes of TVs and computer monitors were recycled.

WEEE producer compliance scheme Electrolink sales and marketing director Paul Van Danzig agreed with Spooner and said that the market is becoming more saturated. He said: "In any successful emerging market it is only natural for businesses to enter into that market, which may result in saturation as more

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and more reproprocessors come on line.

“The downturn in the economy may have contributed to a lack of WEEE. Consumers may be tightening their purse strings so are not throwing away as much as they used to. For example, they may be saying ‘I will stick to that CRT TV screen rather than buy the LCD flat screen TV because it is not broken’.

Spooner said that the future market of WEEE would be “ruled by two or three big players and a host of people picking up WEEE off the streets where they can”. He added: “Once the big businesses tune their businesses to run like the small ones they will rule the world.”

Danzig explained that it was not uncommon for the industry to consolidate through acquisition which may result in a small number of players in the market place.

A BERR spokeswoman said: “We are aware that there has been considerable investment in the treatment sector following the introduction of the WEEE regulations.

“With the Regulations only having been fully in force for 12 months, the UK WEEE infrastructure is still in its infancy. We expect the process of settling down and final establishment to take some time (meaning the overall amount of separately collected waste equipment matching the capacity of the available treatment facilities). We also expect target collection rates to continually rise. Malcolm Wicks recently challenged the industry to raise collection levels to 10kg by the end of 2009.”

Source: Liz Gyekye 22 Jul 2008 <http://www.rwminfo.com>

2.



Within REACH I

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- Registration for a single substance produced at more than 1,000 tons per annum could cost up to EUR 2 million !
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a new initiative called the Chemical Assessment and Management Program (ChAMP) !
- 一种超过1000吨/年的单一物质的注册费用可能超过2百万欧元!
- 美国环保署也已经开展了一项名为化学品评定和管理程序的新行动!

Under REACH, new environmentally-friendly substances will become commercially more attractive.

July 21, 2008 -- Europe's new Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH) legislation will have a major impact on the global chemicals industry.

It may come as a surprise to some, but AkzoNobel, the world's largest coatings company and a major producer of specialty chemicals, believes the new legislation presents a business opportunity, as well as an important contribution to preserving the environment.

Uniformity

Politicians started changing Europe's chemical laws in the late 1990s. In addition to mounting concern for health, safety and the environment, the fragmented laws already in existence were in need of fundamental revision to make them more effective, and to make it easier to control or phase out the use of certain substances.

REACH has taken seven years to formulate and, for the first time, makes evaluation of essentially all chemicals on the European market mandatory. Replacing more than 30 chemicals directives, it has been described as the most complex legislation in the European Union's history, as well as the most important for 20 years.

Immediate Impact and Challenges

With the pre-registration period for REACH now underway (June 1), all chemicals of one ton or more in volume that are manufactured in, or imported into, the EU each year, must be tested for their effect on

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health and safety and registered with a new central European authority-the European Chemicals Agency-located in Helsinki, Finland. Pre-registration must take place before December 2008, with full registrations requested by December 2010, while for some chemicals the deadline is 2018.

REACH will transform the chemicals industry and downstream users, both in the way it operates and in the products it produces. The legislation could also have a big impact on where products are made. Companies from outside the EU that sell chemicals in Europe will be subject to REACH. However, producers of finished goods manufactured outside of Europe will not be restricted to the same choice of chemicals that European manufacturers will be. This could lead to further outsourcing of manufacturing to non-EU countries, particularly the Asia-Pacific region and the U.S.

With REACH, some substances will be phased out of production or become uneconomical because the cost of registering a substance is significant. Registration for a single substance produced at more than 1,000 tons per annum could cost up to EUR 2 million (roughly \$3.13 million).

Business Opportunity and Greater Good

Under REACH, new environmentally-friendly substances will become commercially more attractive. The companies that develop REACH-compliant products will naturally establish competitive advantage. But the benefits do not stop there. REACH will strengthen companies by improving relationships with outside suppliers and promote cooperation between divisions within each company. Here at AkzoNobel, for example, every business unit has set up multifunctional teams, including R&D, legal, sales and purchasing to manage their REACH processes and ensure the regulation is correctly implemented.

The benefits of REACH will be far-reaching because it imposes an obligation to everyone in the chemicals industry to share data. This means a much higher degree of communication between users and competitors, moving the industry toward consensus on a common work plan. Dialog between international organizations, including trade associations and consortia will also be brought about. Groups like the American Chemical Society will be in closer contact with European groups such as The European Center of Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals and The European Chemical Industry Council.

ChAMP

REACH is not the only legislation that promises to improve the chemical industry. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a new initiative called the Chemical Assessment and Management Program (ChAMP). Born out of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America

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Leaders' Summit last year, ChAMP promises to improve chemical safety and the environmental impact of chemicals by gauging risk levels in roughly 9,000 chemicals made in volumes of 25,000 pounds or greater.

ChAMP looks at fewer chemicals than REACH (which would apply to more than 30,000 chemical types) and puts the onus of testing on regulators instead of manufacturers. ChAMP advocates argue that safety and environmental consciousness can be achieved without the costs incurred by REACH.

What's Next?

Although there is uncertainty about how the U.S. will move forward, there is no debate that the future holds more regulation, not less. Companies that put sustainability issues at the top of their agendas will be better protected against regulatory mandates and positioned to compete globally. The organizations that will excel will be those that ensure quality while controlling the logistics and communication channels along the supply chain.

Source: Dave Buckland, Corporate Regulatory Affairs Manager, AkzoNobel

<http://www.industryweek.com/>

3.



Companies have begun to successfully use the facility to submit pre-registration data in bulk for substances using the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) REACH-IT system, which was introduced on 23 July. But so far, firms appear to be keeping low the numbers of substances they attempt to submit in one go.

As of yesterday evening, according to the Agency, 162 bulk pre-registrations had been carried out. Another 29 were in process. The average number of substances in each bulk pre-registration dossier was only 31, although the system is designed to cope with up to 500 at a time.

However, the Agency also reports that 24 attempts to submit bulk dossiers failed. This is said to have been for a number of reasons including files being too large, malformed XML files or 'violations of the business rules' applicable under the system.

So far 5,071 substances have been pre-registered using the bulk submission facility compared to the total number of pre-registrations which stands at 38,836 since 1 June.

Companies appear to be waiting to see how robust the system is before proceeding with pre-registering what is likely to be in some cases, hundreds of substances for one legal entity. Launching the system last week, ECHA executive director Geert Dancet, warned that it was not perfect and it was more complex than he would have liked but promised it would be refined (CW 4 July 2008).

In the coming days, a new tool will be launched which is likely to boost the number of firms using the bulk pre-registration facility. The European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) and the oil industry trade body

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CONCAWE have been waiting for ECHA to be ready before finalising their own tool to help companies translate data held in Excel files into the XML format accepted by REACH-IT (CW 27 June 2008). Final tests of the tool are now being carried out and it is expected to be launched within days.

Source: 30 July, <http://chemicalwatch.com/>