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McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP
Attorneys at Law

2, Avenue de Tervueren
1040 Brussels, Belgium
Telephone: (32-2) 278-1211 ■ Telefax: (32-2) 278-1200
www.mckennalong.com

Ursula Schliessner [1]
Nora Wouters [2]
[1] Member of the Düsseldorf Bar
[2] Advocaat-Avocat - Member of the Brussels Bar

PRESS RELEASE

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Chromium Trioxide REACH Authorization – Launch of Industry Consortium to Prepare Authorization

Simultaneously with ECHA's December 21, 2011 announcement to recommend Chromium Trioxide (Chromium (VI) trioxide EC No. 215-607-8) for entry into Annex XIV REACH (substances subject to authorization) by February 2013, a task force consisting of 23 companies and groups of companies from all over Europe finished its work exploring possible industry cooperation for the authorization phase.

The task force is set to publish on January 15, 2012 a Consortium Agreement that manufacturers, importers and downstream users (including formulators) of chromium trioxide who wish to apply for chromium trioxide authorization may sign by March 15, 2012.

The Consortium will prepare authorization dossiers (for use by members) for the following seven chromium trioxide uses:

(1) Formulation of preparations
(2) Functional chrome plating
(3) Decorative plating
(4) Other surface treatment **with** Chromium VI present on the end product (article)
(5) Other surface treatment with **no** Chromium VI present at detection limit on the end product (article)
(6) Catalysts
(7) Small scale laboratory use

Consortium costs will be divided into common costs and costs per use. Larger companies will pay a higher share of costs than smaller companies. In using such differentiated cost sharing regime, the task force hopes that as many companies as possible, including the many small companies that use chromium trioxide, will sign up to the Consortium by the March 15, 2012 cut-off date.

Any companies not joining by March 15, 2012 may purchase a letter of access to their relevant dossier parts at a premium price once the authorization dossier(s) will be ready (an additional 30% compared to the calculated price at the time of finalization of the dossier).

The Consortium will start its work in May 2012 and has given itself until May 2014 to finalize its work, in time for the expected latest authorization application date November 2014. According to ECHA's planning, the 'sunset date' for use of chromium trioxide without corresponding authorization should be May 2016.

For further information on the Consortium, please contact Ursula Schliessner, McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP tel. 0032-2-2781224 or refer to the Briefing Paper, FAQ and Cost Scenarios attached.