AoA: nickel salts in surface treatment – "electronics and connectors"

Brussels (Crowne Plaza), Wednesday June 5 2013 (10:30-16:00)

Background information

The current project is closely linked to previous projects carried out by the Nickel Institute in 2011 and 2012 on assessment of alternatives of nickel salts used in surface treatment in automotive, aerospace and "decorative" industry.

During the workshop on the latest sector, a major data gap has been identified in the covered sectors: the electronics/connectors sector. The present project thus covers the assessment of alternatives to nickel substances used in "electronics and connectors".

The project aims to analyse the suitability of available alternative substances and techniques that were identified during the previous project. This will be done by including industry representatives in discussions of technical requirements as well as in the initial discussion of implications such substitutions on cost, safety and environmentally related issues.

Objectives of the project

It is the objective of the project to assess the alternatives (substances or techniques) to nickel substances used in "electronics/connectors". This includes an assessment of the suitability of nickel and possible alternatives against the requirements of the technical performance for different applications. The assessment includes identification of costs and market issues at the individual industries as well as at a sector level. Finally information pertaining to the safety and health of workers and consumers as well as environmental issues will be addressed in a life cycle perspective.

The specific aims are:

• Provide an overview of possible alternatives to use of nickel salts in plating used for electronic and connectivity.

• Assess the individual possible alternative against a set of relevant cross cutting technical requirement

• Identify issues related to production costs and implication on the market at company levels and at sector level. This will not include an SEA or specific cost benefit analysis but will provide a starting point for possible later SEA.

• Identify and discuss issues of significance to workers safety, human health and environmental aspects of alternatives compared to nickel based techniques.

It needs to be noted that the report only deals with techniques that are available on the market. R&D efforts are not covered but could be mentioned where relevant.

The approach to achieve these objectives will be presented and discussed during the kick off meeting.

Draft agenda

10:30-10:45: Welcome and introduction (France Capon, NI)

10:45-11:15: Introduction and background of the project: main rules for an AoA in Authorisation (Jens Torslov, DHI)

11:15-12:30: Identification of alternatives and Technical evaluation (Jens Torslov DHI and Jean-Jacques Duprat)

12:30-13:30: Lunch break

13:30-14:00: Assessment of risks (Jens Torslov, DHI)

14:00-14:45: Costs related issues (Jeans Torslov, DHI and Jean-Jacques Duprat)

14:45-15:30: Examples to be included (Jeans Torslov, DHI and Jean-Jacques Duprat)

15:30-16:00: Conclusions and next steps in the RMO analysis with French Authorities (France Capon, NI)