

Space Chromate Task Force kicks off REACH authorisation development for mission-critical uses

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Monday, November 24, 2014 12:18:00 PM

Upon completion of a sign up period the Space Chromate Task Force (STF) for REACH authorisation development held its kick-off meeting for “Phase 2” on 4 November 2014 at Eurospace in Paris.

Several companies from the European space industry have confirmed their membership with STF to share costs and data for the preparation of space-specific elements of authorisation applications in the coming months. Key space industry participants include:

- AIRBUS DEFENCE AND SPACE
- AEROSPACE PROPULSION PRODUCTS
- AVIO
- EUROPROPULSION
- HERAKLES
- OHB SYSTEM AG
- RUAG SPACE
- THALES ALENIA SPACE

The STF is assisted by the European Space Agency (ESA) and Centre National d’Etudes Spatiales (CNES). It is coordinated with the ASD REACH Working Group through STF participants and monitored by the Materials and Processes Technology Board (MPTB). Eurospace is acting as Secretariat, REACHLaw Ltd. as consultant.

The scope of “Phase 2”, which is scheduled to run until September 2015 at the latest, includes:

- Joint Analysis of Alternatives and Socio-Economic Analysis for the use of chromium trioxide in chromic (or chemical) conversion coating on aluminium alloy parts of space vehicles;
- Agreement of application for authorisation strategy with key formulators;
- Development of exemption documentation for laboratory use of Annex XIV-listed chromates.

The final “Phase 3” will be dedicated to dossier finishing and the actual application stage - based on the set-up agreed in Phase 2. The latest application date for chromium trioxide is 21 March 2016.

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