



Newsletter

European Composites Industry Association Newsletter Activities and Issues Overview

• News from the Board

Dear colleagues you have noticed it already, EuCIA and its work are appearing in the press more and more frequently. Without the press and without the support of the media we could have not been as successful as we are now.

Now, EuCIA has entered into a further professional phase. We have signed a media partner agreement with Reed Elsevier and in particular with Reinforced Plastics. This agreement is based on a win-win contract, where both parties will benefit mutually from their activities. Reed will of course have a more direct access to our work and our activities and will in return professional support in our future activities. Whether it is advertisement space, media support for EuCIA events or other areas, EuCIA feels very comfortable with the professional assistance of its partner. You find the link to Reed Elsevier on our home page or under www.reinforcedplastics.com. Just check it out!

• News from Europe

European Commission proposes new strict rules for toys

The European commission proposed measures to improve toy safety in Europe, in particular by toughening up the rules for using of chemical substances in toys. The commission proposes a ban on all carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (CMR) substances in toys. Originally due at the end of last year, the proposal is designed to replace an existing 1988 directive on toy safety ([EED 04/10/07](#)).

The revision has a threefold objective: first and foremost there will be new and higher safety requirements to cope with recently identified hazards, secondly it will strengthen manufacturers' and importers' responsibility for the marketing of toys and finally it enhances the market surveillance obligations of Member States.

The proposal addresses a wide range of issues to improve the existing rules for the marketing of toys that are produced in and imported into the EU in view to reducing toy related accidents and to achieving health benefits.

It will, amongst others prohibit the use of chemical substances that are susceptible to provoke cancer, prohibit allergenic fragrances or oblige toy manufacturers to issue appropriate warnings to improve the prevention of accidents.

• UFO contest

EuCIA is launching a competition which challenges university students to build a flying object from composite materials. The university teams will test their designs at a competition held during the [Composites Europe 2008](#) tradeshow on 23–25 September in Essen, Germany. The rules

for the construction of the 'unidentified flying object' (UFO) and the flight tests it will have to complete are listed below.

Participants

University students may form a team, consisting of a maximum of four members. A university may enter as many teams as it likes into the competition.

Construction categories

There are two categories of construction materials:

- Conventional composite materials**; the reinforcing material must be chosen from the following list of commercially available materials: glass fibre, carbon fibre, aramid fibre or basalt fibre. The matrix resin may be unsaturated polyester, vinyl ester or epoxy resin.
- Composite materials based on natural raw materials**; the reinforcing fibres must have a biological origin, such as flax, hemp, kenaf, jute or similar fibres. The matrix resin must be based on renewable raw materials. Proof of the origin of the materials must be provided.

Design rules

- The shape and size of the UFO is not limited but it must weigh between 100 g and 500 g. The jury must be able to check its weight by placing it on a precision weighing scale with a flat top surface of 50 cm x 50 cm.
- Composite materials have to be used exclusively for the complete outside structure of the UFO, all control surfaces (flaps, ailerons, rudder, etc) and structural parts inside. Connections between the different parts must be made by using synthetic structural adhesives. If flat shapes (surface area at least 100 times the thickness of the shape) are incorporated in the design, commercially available films, based on non-reinforced thermoplastic polymers, may be used.
- The UFO may be equipped with remote control steering equipment sufficient to control the flight according to the rules of the contest.
- Aerodynamic lift of the UFO must be based entirely on the shape of the UFO. Lift caused by temperature difference of the air or other sources of energy (batteries, combustible liquids, solar energy, etc) is not permitted. The UFO may not be equipped with any means of propulsion, either by air jet, propeller, twisted rubber bands or any other device used to generate forward motion of the UFO.
- Repairs between flights may only be done to keep the UFO in flying condition for the next attempt. A change in construction is not considered a repair.

How to enter

Teams are invited to fill in an entry form and submit it to EuCIA, together with a draft design, by **31 May 2008**. For an entry form or further information please contact Ab Kasper: tel: +32-2-7324124, e-mail: ab.kasper@eucia.org

• REACH in the Composites Industry

The preparation for the new Chemicals legislation REACH is gearing up now. All major chemical companies are working very hard to secure their positions in this new field. There are approx. 30.000 different substances that fall under the REACH regulation. Under these 30.000 there are major chemicals like styrene, but also highly specialised chemicals (accelerators, stabilisers, pigments, etc) that are indispensable to the composites industry. You as composite producers will in most cases act as downstream user under REACH.

As a downstream user, your main obligations under REACH are to:

1. Follow the instructions in the safety data sheets you receive and in the exposure scenarios which will be attached to some safety data sheets. Communicate with your supplier to have your use covered by an exposure scenario .
2. Contact your suppliers if you have new information on the hazard of the substance or preparation or if you believe that the risk management measures are not appropriate.
3. Provide your customers with information on hazards, safe conditions of use and appropriate risk management advice for your preparations.

Downstream users may not place on the market any substances which are not registered in accordance with REACH.

In practice, you should make sure that your supplier is aware of REACH and complies with his requirements. You should obtain a statement confirming that your supplier knows his requirements, follows them and also checks that his suppliers are in compliance with REACH, and request a confirmation that pre-registration has taken place or is going to take place. The European Chemicals Agency ECHA (the responsible agency for the implementation of the REACH regulation) has just issued a Technical Guidance Document which describes in all details the requirements for downstream users. It can be downloaded freely from the ECHA website: http://reach.jrc.it/docs/guidance_document/du_en.pdf

This 162 page document gives you all the answers on your DU obligations. In daily life it is however not always easy to find sufficient time to read through such a docu-

ment. EuCIA is therefore going to help you in becoming compliant to REACH. We have written a four page overview of the main aspects of REACH for the composites industry. In the coming days it will be put on our website, so you have all relevant information available.

In the coming period we are writing a 1 page monthly update on REACH. In each update a certain aspect of the REACH regulation will be explained much more in detail. In the meantime; if you have any questions on the implementation of REACH in your association of company, send us an email and we will try to find the proper answer. There is more on REACH to mention.

Our German Association AVK organises a one day workshop on February 27 in Cologne in Germany, titled "REACH meets Composites". On this workshop you will meet a large number of REACH experts that can help you with your questions. For more information contact info@avk-tv.de. *EuCIA, your partner in REACH*

• From the General Manager

EuCIA wishes you a happy and prosperous New Year!

The year 2008 starts in a good economical situation; Europe is in a good shape. There are however also uncertainties on the horizon. The financial crisis in the United States will impact the economy in Europe; the big question is of course to which degree?

Another uncertainty is the implementation of the new chemicals legislation REACH. As from the 1st of June this year chemicals manufacturers and importers will start to pre-register their substances under REACH. At the end of this year it will become more clear whether substances will disappear from the market or additional rules will be set for the composites industry. EuCIA will take its role to help you with the implementation of REACH. Read more about it in the article below.

Global warming last but not least is an issue that will affect the composites industry. It creates lots of opportunities for new, lighter and more dedicated composite products, it will also trigger the development of greener and more sustainable materials and processes.

In short: 2008 will be again an exciting year for our industry! Let's make the best of it together.

Ab Kasper
General Manager EuCIA

• CALENDAR OF EVENTS

14 February 2008	Innovative Polymers Conference	Brussels, EuPC Center
27 February 2008	REACH meets Composites	Köln, Germany
1-3 April 2008	JEC	Paris, France
21-23 May 2008	EuPC Annual Meeting	Athens, Greece
24-26 June 2008	euroLITE	Austria
29-31 October 2008	Compotec	Marina di Carrara, Italy

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