

Charlotte Grevfors Ernoult, Head of Unit, Health and Safety

cc. Alick Morris, DG Empl F/4,

Re: SCOEL Review of Lead

Dear Ms Grevfors Ernoult,

We are writing to you in your capacity as Head of Unit, Safety and Health at DG Employment to highlight our concern about the lack of progress being made by SCOEL to develop an opinion on the establishment of a health based occupational exposure limit for lead and compounds.

In 2013 the Advisory Committee on Health & Safety at Work indicated that the current EU Binding Occupational and Biological Limit values for lead are now not reflective of the current scientific evidence for health effects in the workplace and that these limits should be reviewed and amended as soon as possible. SCOEL was requested to put lead on its workplan but given the current workload of this Committee we understand little progress has been.

Industry was supportive of a new SCOEL review as the first step in the revision of EU binding limit values given the existence of a REACH workplace DNEL since 2010 and since Industry voluntary exposure management targets already required workplace control of lead to significantly lower levels than is mandated by the existing binding values.

In the absence of a SCOEL opinion we are now seeing Member States undertake independent National reviews of existing occupational exposure limits that lack consistency and during the REACH discussions several Member States have proposed that authorisation of lead compounds is required given the fact that OSH legislation in the form of the binding EU limits for lead does not afford adequate protection. We do not believe that this is a proportionate regulatory action as the EU Binding Limit Values described in the Chemical Agents Directive (and additional measures such as lead-specific requirements in the Pregnant Workers Directive) were established for exactly this purpose and respectfully request that all appropriate steps be taken to begin the updating of these limits as soon as possible.

We therefore call upon DG Employment to request that SCOEL make the lead OEL review a priority and that DG Employment supports any Commission proposal to exempt uses of lead/lead compounds that are restricted to industrial use (i.e. manufacturing) by reference to REACH Article 58(2) considering the existing protection already afforded by long standing OSH legislation.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information to help you in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

f. k,

Regulatory Affairs Director, ILA

 Alick Morris

Executive Director, Eurobat

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! - The International Lead Association (ILA) is a not for profit membership body that represents companies involved in the mining, smelting, refining and recycling of lead. We represent the producers of about 3 million tons of lead and almost two thirds of lead production in the western world. We act as the secretariat for the Lead REACH Consortium that was established in 2008 to help companies meet their REACH obligations for lead metal, lead chloride, and ten lead compounds covered by the Voluntary Risk Assessment for Lead (VRAL)

EUROBAT

EUROBAT is the association for the European manufacturers of automotive, industrial and energy storage batteries. EUROBAT has 51 members from across the continent comprising more than 90% of the automotive and industrial battery industry in Europe. The members and staff work with all stakeholders, such as battery users, governmental organisations and media, to develop new battery solutions in areas of hybrid and electro-mobility as well as grid flexibility and renewable energy storage.