



Cross Industry Agreement - First Technical Meeting, 25th April 2018

Summary

Meeting objectives

After the roll call and welcoming participants from Japan, Sweden, Norway, UK, Germany, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Hong Kong and the USA, EURATEX on behalf of the 5 signatory organisations introduced the voluntary cross-industry initiative and meeting objectives stressing that *very first step to effectively tackle the issue, is to discuss different on-going research on test methods and a possible way forward for harmonisation.*

The host reiterated that microplastic release from the washing of synthetic clothes is a global issue and a relatively recent concern that generated multiple uncoordinated research on various test methods. This situation creates a lot of ambiguity about the root causes, the emission rates, the pathways and of course the solutions. The overarching aim of this meeting is, therefore, to firstly discuss the potential development of a harmonised and validated test method.

As highlighted in the cross-industry agreement (CIA), the host stressed that the conclusions of this first technical meeting, would feed the work on a proposal for a harmonised and validated test method followed by a second meeting after the summer break.

Presentations

Representatives from AATCC (USA), EMPA (Switzerland), Hohenstein (Germany), Leeds University (UK), Kyoto University (Japan), LEITAT (Spain), SINTEF (Norway), SGS (Hong Kong), Swerea (Sweden) presented their current work and interest in developing a testing method.

Conclusion and next steps

Participants unanimously agreed the meeting was instrumental to bring the vast majority of global researchers engaged in the topic around the same table.

This is of paramount importance to foster coordination, potential collaboration and ultimately find science-based solutions to tackle a global issue.

Both signatories and researchers agreed on the value of organising a follow up technical meeting around the summer break, to dig into technicalities of collaboration. The latter shall deliver a proposal for a harmonised test methods.

Next steps of collaboration would also benefit from reaching out to more business stakeholders which the CIA signatories are in a position to address.

As next steps, the hosts will: i) check with all participants for comments and permission to publish the meeting outcome (report and presentation in full or as extract), ii) welcome ideas and proposals, and iii) propose a date for a follow up meeting.