



Cross Industry Agreement - Fourth Technical Meeting 5 March 2019 Video call

Meeting Report summary

1. Meeting objectives

The CIA signatories welcomed the participants from Sweden, Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain, Japan, Switzerland, Germany and Hong Kong joining online.

The objective of the video call were: i) to update researchers about policy developments; ii) to progress on aligning on parameters of the considered test methods with a view to reach an agreement by May; iii) to update on communication activities with external stakeholders.

2. Discussion (*Chatham House rules apply*)

Insights

In the opening presentation the CIA host stressed the urgency from both policy-makers and from the industry to have a harmonised test method: recent European Parliament [question](#) and European Commission [publication](#) show that the discussion is still based on outdated studies with limited scientific background and anchored to problem description rather than possible solutions. Based on the progress outlined in the matrix on test method alignment, it was proposed to reach an agreement on a harmonised test by May 2019.

Discussion on the matrix aligning different test methods

The host led the discussion on the points where alignment is still necessary:

- **Sample pre-treatment:** pre-wash or first wash is good as long as it is mentioned in the results
- **Liquor ratio:** researchers to share more data on this
- **Sample size:** discussion was focused on rectangular vs square, if weight matters, edge sealing → need more data
- Regarding **edge sealing** the discussion focused on the type of fibers for the test method to focus on (scope): synthetics or natural, while the host stressed that the CIA work should focus on synthetic textiles. Participants agreed that the test method should allow for both natural and synthetic fibers testing as this is the only parameter that could block moving forward. Laser cutting should be excluded if the method should work for different materials. Participants agreed that there should be an innovative solution for edge-sealing to avoid influencing results. Researchers mentioned that they have a solution similar to industrial sewing.
- One participant highlighted the importance of microplastic **definition** currently discussed at ECHA meaning that there should be a clear distinction between microfibers from synthetics and those from natural fibers.

- **Gyro vs domestic washing:** although some participants highlighted the importance of household washing machine test methods others mentioned the challenges to conclude them in due time. There was a general agreement that the gyro test method should be the focus of the work for the time being due to the urgency.
- **Number of steel balls:** agreement on 50; a higher number would increase microplastic shedding and facilitate data collection. One participant raised concern on the necessity to have 50 steel balls
- **Temperature:** agreement on 40 degrees
- **Test length:** agreement on 45 min
- **Filtration:** need for more data
- **Detergents:** agreement to not use any

One participant proposed to liaise with the CIA signatories and create a “green column” in the matrix on the agreed parameters.

Another participant proposed their test method for household washing for consideration by the experts in further test method development after the gyro.

- **Communication about the CIA progress:**

The host updated on recent communication with:

- NGO
- European Commission and CEN
- Media

3. Next steps:

As next steps, the hosts will: i) check with all participants for comments and permission to publish the meeting outcome (report and presentation); ii) draft written communication on limits and scope of the test method; participants welcome to send their key consideration for factsheet development.



Participants

Name

CNR, National Research Council
Hohenstein Institute, Germany
Japan Chemical Fibers Association
Japan Chemical Fibers Association
Japan Textile Federation
Kaken Test Center, Japan
LEITAT, Spain
LEITAT, Spain
Niederrhein, Germany
RISE, Sweden
SGS, Hong Kong
University of Leeds, UK

Hosts

Name

CIRFS
Radici - on behalf of CIRFS
Aquafil – on behalf of CIRFS
EOG
EURATEX
EURATEX
FESI