



## Cross Industry Agreement - Third Technical Meeting 4 February 2019

### Meeting Report

#### 1. Meeting objectives

After the roll call, FESI welcomed participants from Japan, Sweden, Norway, UK, Germany, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Hong Kong and the USA. EURATEX reminded the participants of the Cross-Industry Agreement's aim, role of the group and recent important internal and external meetings:

- In addition to two successful CIA technical meetings, the group convened on 15 January via video call to discuss alignment of 8 test methods through 25 parameters as resumed in a [matrix file](#), also publicly available in anonymous form.
- CIA signatories met with CEN (the EU standardization body) to discuss possible collaboration for the purpose of avoiding duplication of work and speed up delivery of results.

The SAPEA (Scientific Committee of the European Commission) recently held a meeting [stressing](#) a lack of evidence on microplastics being a risk to human health but warning in case of inaction; CIA to liaise with SAPEA.

Main two objectives of the third CIA meeting are: i) to progress on harmonizing parameters in the matrix and ii) to align on communication activities.

Prior to the core discussion, the CIA signatories welcomed updates from 2 organizations on the progress of their test method development.



## 2 Discussion (*Chatham House rules apply*)

The following parameters were discussed:

- Detergent inclusion
- Sample edge sealing
- Filter type
- Need for pre-treatment (hoovering, rinsing)
- Conditioning of the filters afterwards
- Sample makeup/construction (*not discussed*)
- Fibre loss assessment technique (*not discussed*)

### 2.1 Detergents inclusion

Some participants deem that detergents may cause issues in terms of clogging while one participant recommends its use because of lower fiber loss. All participants agree that if detergents are to be included, they need to be standardized. Currently there is a standardized powder detergent, but not a liquid one. The latter is a better option because it may not cause clogging and residue.

It was decided to share data once one of the institutes tests with detergents and discuss this matter further.

### 2.2 Sample edge sealing

The participants discussed different edge sealing techniques depending on which more/less fibers may be shed. Laser cutting is an option in the scope of synthetics, but the question is whether this would be acceptable if the scope moves beyond synthetic fibers, as one of the participants mentioned. In addition, laser cutting might be too costly.

More discussion took place on the type of filaments to seal the fabric (selection of threads according to the fabrics, multifilament VS. monofilament).

It was decided to try with another type of sample edge sealing that includes folding and taping (seamtaping machine).

### 2.3 Filter type

Research centers reported on the use of many different filters depending on the fabric: stainless steel, glass, polyamide woven, cellulose nitrate, polyester. One participant reported that glass filters may be used for any type of fabric (in relation to FTIR spectroscopy).

When it comes to pore size it was agreed that smaller size is more appropriate.

The researchers will look into the data shared among and discuss at the next meeting.

### 2.4 Need for pretreatment

Some researches argue that pre-treatment is necessary as it releases more fibers, however, this was challenged by another participant saying that it might be perceived as a way to get less fiber loss during testing. One participant mentioned that in this current fast fashion trend, consumers often times do not even wash the garment before first wearing. Another participant stressed that if it is decided to pretreat the sample, there has to be an agreement



between the parties involved. An additional point on what kind of vacuum to use and in which manner was brought up.

Closing this point, a CIA signatory stressed the importance of the aim of the test method: to assess a fabric and its loss or fiber loss into the environment from a particular fabric.

### **2.5 Conditioning of the filters afterwards**

Participants agreed to use oven drying technique.

An important point that emerged during the discussion is whether the test method should solely focus on synthetic textiles or be tailored for natural fibers too, if such need emerges. A CIA signatory reminded of the current scope and focus on synthetic textile in the CIA itself, while agreeing that other relevant issue may have to be explored.

### **3 Public communication activities**

EURATEX updated the participants on launching of the CIA webpage with public version of meeting reports, matrix and other information: <http://www.euratex.eu/cia>.

The hosts also asked the participants whether the disclosure of research centers involved in the common test method development on the web page is acceptable, for which the participants agreed.

One participant suggested that the CIA website shall be an information hub for policy-makers, industry, NGO and consumers.

Finally, at requested of one of the participants, a common folder has been created for participants to update and share data and findings of their research.

### **Conclusion and next steps (Chatham house rules apply)**

The CIA signatories thanked the participants for their dedicated work and suggested to have another video conference meeting on Tuesday, 5 March, 13:00-15:00. Dial in information will be sent at a later stage.

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; iii) update the matrix of test method alignment; iv) verify and include link to the research organizations in the CIA webpage.



## Participants

### Organisation

AATCC, United States (online)  
CNR, National Research Council  
EMPA, Switzerland  
EMPA, Switzerland  
Hohenstein Institute, Germany  
Hohenstein Institute, Germany  
Interpreter  
Japan Chemical Fibers Association  
Japan Chemical Fibers Association  
Japan Textile Federation  
Kaken Test Center, Japan  
Kyoto University Graduate School of Global  
Environmental Studies  
LEITAT, Spain  
LEITAT, Spain  
Niederrhein, Germany  
RISE, Sweden  
SGS, Hong Kong  
SINTEF, Norway  
Toray, Japan  
University of Leeds, UK  
University of Leeds, UK  
University of Leeds, UK

## Hosts

### Organisation

A.I.S.E.  
A.I.S.E.  
Henkel – on behalf of A.I.S.E.  
CIRFS  
Radici - on behalf of CIRFS  
Aquafil – on behalf of CIRFS  
EOG  
EURATEX  
EURATEX  
FESI