



Cross Industry Agreement – 5th Technical Meeting **Techtextile/ Texprocess fair Messe Frankfurt** **14 May 2019**

Meeting Report

Objectives, updates

On behalf of the five CIA signatories, EURATEX welcomed the participants from Japan, Sweden, UK, Germany, Spain, Italy, Hong Kong (on-line) and the USA and welcomed particularly four new participants from research organizations and business. EURATEX highlighted the meeting objectives: i) complete the harmonization by addressing the final set of parameters; ii) agree on joint communication.

EURATEX briefed participants on policy developments and meetings including the presentation of the SAPEA report and stressed the urgency to agree on a harmonized test method as demanded by large industry players, policy makers and NGOs. This will enable testing, data analysis and investigating solutions.

CIA stressed the importance to update policy-makers and standardization bodies on the crucial progress achieved so far by the entire CIA group. It was agreed that third party scientists would be joining the meeting to provide further explanations to any scientific questions addressing the challenges ahead. This would also advance the credibility of the initiative by avoiding that EU policy-makers think that the industry is trying to gain time.

Finally, the CIA signatories proposed to complete the harmonization work with the current 5th meeting and based on the agreed parameters (estimated to cover approximately 80+% of the full test). This would enable releasing a test method or, if need be, a draft version. CIA signatories observed that by using such method and collect data, the pending parameters may be more easily agreed upon.

Several participants expressed skepticism that the discussion on harmonization may be completed at the current stage and stressed the need for further work. They also raised concerns that publishing any unfinished method would eventually lead to confusion and wrong results. However, there was consensus that the CIA should share with the authorities a draft report about aligned parameters and the missing ones, thus stressing the need for additional research and funding.



Technical discussion (Chatham House rules apply)

One participants pointed out the misunderstanding between “microfiber” vs “microplastic” particularly with some national authorities, since anything above 1 mm is not micro. Another participant also concurred with the need to clarify on the terminology.

A newcomer challenged the discussion by pointing out the gap between the currently discussed test method designed for laboratory testing and real-life situation in household washing. CIA signatories reminded that CIA working group agreed since the beginning to focus on lab testing at a first stage and for the purpose of identifying root causes.

Starting the technical discussion, the tests matrix of all the agreed parameters and pending points was opened. The host reiterated on those parameters opening the discussion regarding the pending ones notably the relationship between variations in fabric weight and the subsequent effect on liquor ratio and the number of steel balls used, filtration and edge sealing.

The parameters outlined above have remained points of contention as research is on-going at the various institutions present, a number of which presented their finding at this latest meeting. The material the filters are composed of and their pore size continued to be discussed with a number of institutions agreeing to work together to check the validity of each other’s results. It was strongly felt that until the matters regarding the filters has been addressed then agreement on the other parameters still outstanding, would prove difficult. However, it was noted that work on a satisfactory method of sealing the edges of test samples was making progress. However, the matter of the overall effect of variations to the liquor ratio remain outstanding, in part until the issues with filters have been addressed, but also because a principal for adjusting for variations in fabric remain.

The participants agreed to freeze the discussion and presenting the parameters so far agreed as long as they will not be presented as the final test method.

A participant stressed that the draft test method “should not set anything in stone” at the current stage and leave time for further learning and “adjustment”. This view was agreed in the room.

Another participant added that a third parameter on the number of steel balls still needs to be looked at, pointing out that at the last meeting they did not agree with the majority on 50 steel balls.

Conclusions and next steps (Chatham house rules apply)

Participants and the CIA signatories agreed on:

- 1) Release a draft Test Method Report describing 25 parameters harmonized by the researchers and insights on those still under discussion
- 2) Two parameters, the filtration and edge sealing, currently lack a proper protocol to be implemented. Possible technical solutions are under discussion and shall be validated to enable the full use of the test method. Funding resources would also be needed.

Accordingly, the CIA signatories will make a draft Test Method Report, send it to the research organizations for feedback and validation. A public version without details will be published on the CIA webpage.

As next steps, the hosts will: i) check with all participants for comments and permission to publish the meeting outcome (report and presentation); ii) circulate among the participants a draft test method report (a detailed version and a public version); inform on next meeting with policy-makers and standardization body.

Next CIA meeting will be held on Tuesday, 22 October in Brussels.





Participants, speakers and observers

AATCC, United States
Adidas - on behalf of FESI
APPLI, Europe
Centrocot, Italy
Hohenstein, Germany,
Japan Chemical Fibers Association, Japan
Japanese Textile Federation, Japan
Kaken Test Center, Japan
LEITAT, Spain
Miele – on behalf of APPLIA
Hochschule Niederrhein, Germany
RISE, Sweden
SGS, Hong Kong
Textranet, Europe
Toray, Japan
Aquafil - on behalf of CIRFS
Leeds University, United Kingdom

Hosts

CIRFS
EOG
EURATEX
FESI
(AISE excused)