



Cross Industry Agreement – 7th Technical Meeting Video call 7 February 2020

Meeting Report, detailed version

Objectives & updates

The CIA signatories welcomed participants from Japan, Sweden, UK, Spain, Italy and Hong Kong. EURATEX highlighted the objectives of the meeting: i) updates on standardisation activities with CEN and ISO; ii) updates on policy-making developments; iii) communication; iv) discussion on phase 2 – from test to solutions; iv) technical discussion on pending issue with the test method.

i) Standardisation

CIA cooperation with CEN

CIA updated on the recent communication with CEN regarding its progress of setting up a dedicated Working Group WG 37 in TC248 working on the “standardisation of test methods for the determination of release, identification and evaluation of microplastics from textile sources, during manufacturing and use.” The work shall comprise two parts. First one essentially being the CIA test method, while the second one will involve characterisation of microplastics based on another proposal.

CIA asked for updates from the researchers on their interest to be part of CEN WG: one researcher has already been appointed by their national standardisation organisation while a few other nominations are pending. Three research institutes are planning to be part of CEN work, while another one is already confirmed.

CIA kindly asked the researchers to inform the signatories of their intention to be part of CEN, by 11th February.

CIA signatory also informed that its organisation is a liaison of CEN and interested researchers can also ask for to participate via one of the CIA signatories.

One international participant plans to make a proposal to ISO for a standard to assess MP present in water, timing not known yet.

ii) Update on policy-making

CIA signatory updated on the new Commission plan, the [Green Deal](#), which includes another Circular Economy Action Plan and a zero-pollution ambition. The Green Deal announces future actions to tackle microplastics including those released from textiles. The signatories have already anticipated that this topic will continue to be in the focus of policy-making.



iii) Communication and sharing of CIA results

CIA signatory outlined three communication proposals: short page on the CIA website explaining myths vs facts; test method report that can be released to the public at this stage; and a short message of the progress after 2 years of work similar to the current infographics. CIA signatory also mentioned related events discussing microplastics namely in Canada, in Brussels last December as part of a German project ([Textile E-mission](#)) and an upcoming event at the OECD. The latter is part of a bigger Forum on due diligence in the garment sector and will for the first time organise a full day session on policy recommendations for microplastics. One of the CIA signatories will intervene in a panel and share the progress of the CIA work.

iv) Moving towards phase 2, from test to solution:

During the joint discussion on possible cooperation within the CIA to investigate solutions a CIA signatory acknowledged the 2-year-long work done to harmonise a test method globally and posed questions about next steps in terms of data generation, having a centralised database and the role of the CIA community in the next phase.

All participants supported their involvement in phase 2. Most participants agreed that combining efforts with other stakeholders outside the CIA, makes sense to strengthen the database.

Another international researcher welcomed the approach and suggested to have a global database where other non-EU countries doing the same work can participate. One researcher warned that feeding data shall be done with care as the testing has to be performed based on the harmonised method, otherwise there is a risk of mixed results. Another researcher, welcoming the shared database, also acknowledged the role of the CIA as it has a close connection to policy-making. Life-cycle assessment was also pointed out as a factor to be looked at in terms of the actual impact of the released microplastics as well as looking now into the risk profile of microplastics pollution.

CIA signatory also emphasized the importance of funding to continue this work.

Overall, there is a unanimous interest from the CIA community to continue the work, investigate LCA and risk assessment as well as discuss funding with the policy-makers.

v) Technical discussion

CIA signatory introduced the pending parameters to be discussed with the researchers and the results of the round-robin tests.

After a technical discussion, the researchers agreed to choose filter B (glass microfiber filter). Overall, all parameters are now set and agreed with exception of liquor-volume ratio that needs to be refined and supported with more data, planned to be completed by mid-March. Additional question was posed in terms of whether to consider results from the first wash as it has a lot of contaminants. CIA signatory added that they observed longer fibers when testing commercial fabrics as a possible outcome of contamination from lint and dust as opposed to shorter fibers from test fabrics.

CIA signatory to circulate a list of technical questions to the researchers for further test method refinement.



CIA community agreed to produce an updated version of the test method based on today's discussion and transfer it to the CEN WG 37.

Conclusions and next steps

Participants and the CIA signatories agreed on the following:

- Researchers to inform CIA of their interest to join CEN WG 37
- Progress towards phase 2, discuss further on centralised database and on funding
- Update the CIA infographics for new public communication

As next steps, the hosts will: i) check with all participants for comments and permission to publish the meeting outcome; ii) circulate a doodle for the next meeting planned for late March.



Participants

Organisation

Aquafil - on behalf of CIRFS
Centrocot, Italy
CNR, Italy
Hohenstein, Germany
Japan Chemical Fibers Association, Japan
JTF
KAKEN TEST CENTER, Japan
LEITAT, Spain
Radici Group – on behalf of CIRFS
RISE, Sweden
SGS Group, Hong Kong
SINTEF, Norway
University of Leeds, United Kingdom

Hosts

AISE
CIRFS
EURATEX
EOG
FESI