



Cross Industry Agreement – 6th Technical Meeting EURATEX offices in Brussels, Belgium **22 October 2019**

Meeting Report

Objectives & updates

On behalf of the five CIA signatories, CIA signatories welcomed the participants from Japan, Sweden, UK, Germany, Spain, Hong Kong and the USA. EURATEX highlighted the meeting objectives: i) pending technical issues in the CIA draft test method report; ii) How to work with standardisation body; iii) How to work with others to address solutions; iv) communication.

CIA signatory briefed participants on policy developments including the new European Commission taking place as of this fall and its policy focus on tackling microplastic pollution, stressing that alignment of the test method is fundamental. In addition, main results since the last meeting were outlined: i) final test method report planned to be published in the summer, still delayed due to pending parameters; ii) meeting with EC and standardisation body which revealed the technical discussion and complexity of harmonisation; iii) CIA presentation before a standardisation body on 4 Oct, with main results being a decision to elaborate a test method on microplastics from textile sources. During the latter, another test method proposal was presented which could be seen as complementary to the work of the CIA, but should not overlap.

CIA signatory outlined other important events linked to microplastics.

Technical discussion (Chatham House rules apply)

Participants pointed out remaining issues including filters. Some participants stressed out the mass loss issue, that could possibly lead to affecting the result and agreed on a need for pre-rinsing to get rid of any mass loss. Another participant updated on testing and damages on glass fiber filters and glass fiber filters with cellulosic binder and problem with white powder residue from the filters. Composition of white powder was not studied in a detail.

One participant updated on developing a test method for quantifying microfiber shedding during laundering of garment using a collection bag installed at the drain of a washing machine and a separate washing bag to place the garment in.

The discussion on filter issues also raised concerns regarding the funding and the fact that such filter that would solve the problem does not exist on the market. The participants agreed to run a round-robin only focusing on filters and mass loss;. The participants also concurred that once the filter issue is solved, the liquor ratio and steel balls will also be solved.



To discuss more on this, CIA will have an internal call before the end of this year with no firm decision before winter break.

Correct definition of microplastics was also pointed out referring to the discussion currently taking place at ECHA (in the framework of the microplastics restriction); CIA signatory mentioned that the official commenting period closed and that the ECHA scientific opinions will tentatively be completed in the first quarter of 2020, including a microplastics definition.

Public communication of the test method

CIA signatory warned again about the misleading information that may impact policy-making and businesses and suggested the following: i) agree what to say about the CIA test method report; ii) agree on core messages on microplastics released from textiles, based on CIA shared knowledge; iii) release a leaflet by the end of this year.

On the latter, it would be a 4-page leaflet with two main messages on the CIA test method report and lessons learned on microplastics. In addition, all should agree on which key messages the CIA needs to give and to decide on the target audience.

Conclusions and next steps (Chatham house rules apply)

Participants and the CIA signatories agreed on:

1. CIA to appoint delegates in the Working Group for the purpose of developing standard around the CIA test method
2. Run a round robin experience with 7 laboratories focusing on mass loss on filters (glass fibres and milipore) and prepare a protocol for the laboratories to follow
3. CIA to prepare a public communication

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 between 26-28 January, final date to be confirmed via doodle.

-----**End of internal part**-----



Open session

A CIA signatory welcomed the new participants from CEN and European Commission and updated them on the progress and discussion. Participants briefed on the political aspect of the issue and on the procedure to formalise the harmonised test method.



Participants

Organisation

AATCC, United States of America
AITEK, Spain
APPLIA, Europe
CEN, Europe (open session)
European Commission (open session)
Hohenstein Institute, Germany
Japan Chemical Fibers Association, Japan
JTF
KAKEN TEST CENTER, Japan
LEITAT, Spain
Niederrhein, Germany
OECD
SGS Group, China
RISE, Sweden
University of Leeds, United Kingdom

Hosts

AISE, Europe
EURATEX
CIRFS
Aquafil on behalf of CIRFS, Europe
European Outdoor Group
FESI