

## EU solvents industry ready with generic exposure scenarios

Consultative process covers all common solvent uses and creates base for cooperation on CLP

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The European Solvents Industry Group (ESIG) has published on its website a library of generic exposure scenarios developed with key downstream user groups. Dorothee Arns, ESIG director general, says the work, which was done jointly with five downstream sectors, covers all common industrial, professional and consumer uses of solvents.



The aim is to provide standard, harmonised communication on uses to help companies up and down the supply chain meet their REACH obligations. She says working on this project was not confined to the five pilot sectors – soaps and detergents, paints and coatings, aerosols, distributors and adhesives and sealants – but also involved liaising with some 30 plus downstream user associations in the industry forum for solvent producers and users, called ESVOC, over a two year period.

“This approach is revolutionary and has enabled us to cover a variety of uses, but at the same time the work is also representative. We have tried to ‘cluster’ the uses at a high level.” She explains that solvents have been grouped by hazard and volatility, and the uses of solvents by a combination of their hazard profile and key physicochemical properties. These translate into different exposure scenarios that represent similar risks and can be controlled using similar risk management measures.

The resulting 22 generic exposure scenarios cover solvents with low, medium and high volatilities across industrial, professional and consumer applications.

Ms Arns adds that several REACH consortia, such as the Hydrocarbon Solvents Consortium (HCSC), Lower Olefins and Aromatics (LOA) and the oil industry group Concawe, are using the scenarios in 2010 registration dossiers. Furthermore, not only is it compatible with the European Chemicals Agency Chemical Safety Assessment and Reporting (Chesar) tool, but its structure and contents build from and contribute to the European Standard Phrases Catalogue, which covers phrases for safety data sheets.

In addition, the approach, which has been endorsed by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Council of the Chemical Industry (Cefic) is also useful for companies wishing to develop their own specific exposure scenarios.

While the ESIG generic exposure scenario work is now completed, Ms Arns notes that the cooperation has been extremely fruitful and dynamic. She

anticipates joint work towards meeting company obligations for classification and labelling is likely to follow. She added: “Downstream users are affected and many have not realised what is happening.” There are already plans for a potential ESIG seminar on CLP and GHS aimed at SMEs “More than 80% of users of solvents are SMEs,” she noted. “It is our mission and our commitment to facilitate their compliance with legislation.”

The five downstream user associations spearheading the work were the International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products (AISE), the European Council of Producers and Importers of Paints, Printing Inks and Artists’ Colours (CEPE), European Aerosol Federation (FEA), the European Association of Chemical Distributors (FECC) and Association of European Adhesives and Sealants Manufacturers (FEICA).

- [ESIG GES Library](http://www.esig.org/en/regulatory-information/reach/ges-library/) (http://www.esig.org/en/regulatory-information/reach/ges-library/)

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