

ACPA – Activated Carbon Producers Association

A sector group of Cefic

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Activated Carbon and REACH

ACPA gathers the main European producers, importers and regenerators of activated carbon (AC). This European Association operates under the umbrella of Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council. Its main objectives are the following:

- Represent the interests of the European Activated Carbon Industry;
- Provide a forum where Health, Environment and Safety issues affecting the production, handling and use of the products can be discussed.

ACPA's activities are among others to monitor the EU regulations affecting AC and recently in particular the REACH regulation.

You are most certainly aware that the final REACH regulation 1907/2006 and the amendment to the 67/548 EEC have been published in the Official Journal L 396 of 30 December 2006 and that REACH is in force since 1 June 2007. Basically the two most important aims of the new chemical legislation are to improve the protection of human health and environment from the risks of chemicals while enhancing the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.

In this framework, the article 2.7(a) lists some substances included in Annex IV of the legislation which are exempted of registration, *as sufficient information is known about these substances that they are considered to cause minimum risk because of their intrinsic properties.*

There is general consensus that activated carbon meets the criteria for inclusion in Annex IV, as it is considered as causing minimum risk because of its intrinsic properties. However, due to the fact that the concerned EINECS and/or CAS numbers are also used to identify forms of carbon at the nanoscale (i.e. nanocarbons such as fullerenes), which do not meet the criteria for inclusion in Annex IV, the European Commission was forced to decide to remove carbon from Annex IV (as reflected in the COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 987/2008 of 8 October 2008).

Identification of activated carbon is:

Name/Group = Carbon C
N° CAS = 7440-44-0
N° EINECS = 231-153-3

This entry applies to activated carbon, as confirmed also by the European Commission's IUCLID Dataset, the CAS definition as well as by several other references such as EN Standards for use of Activated Carbons as chemicals for the Drinking Water Treatments (EN 12915-1 and EN-12903). ACPA members are using this CAS number in their Safety Data Sheet.

Conclusions

ACPA members will (pre-)register activated carbon under the REACH legislation.

For more information please contact your activated carbon supplier. You may also find more information on ACPA and its members on our webpage: acpa.cefic.eu

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