



## PMC General Assembly – pre-meeting about ‘nanos under REACH’

(31 May 2017, 11-12.15)

***Participants list:*** Holger Zitt (BASF), Steven Verberckmoes (Umicore), Roland Brasch (Heraeus), Rob Garrett (Ames Goldsmith), Juha Parkkinen (Norilsk Nickel), Bodo Berkner (Ferro), France Capon, Katrien Arijis, Vincent Dunon, Maxime Eliat and Jelle Mertens (PMC)

***The below minutes reflect the main discussion points and agreements of the meeting, and need to be considered together with the slides that have been presented and sent to all participants.***

Jelle presented the slides, which reflected

- how nanomaterials are defined under REACH,
- how ECHA sees the coverage of nanomaterials under REACH,
- what nanomaterials are included in PMC’s portfolio and how this has been registered under REACH, and
- what other (potential) nanomaterials might be produced by PMC members (intentionally and non-intentionally) and what scientific information we already have on these materials.

**Silver metal** is today the only PMC substance for which a nanoform is included in the REACH dossier:

- nanosilver is chemically the same as Ag metal -> nanoform is included in the dossier as a separate composition/form
- nanoAg is registered as mono-constituent substance, coating is considered an additive (vs ZnO dossier: coated form is registered as mixture of nanoZnO + surface treating agent).
- more details on the nanoform will be included during the dossier update following Substance Evaluation
- during earlier discussions, it was concluded that Ag black is chemically the same as Ag metal, but Ag black is not a nanomaterial.

It was mentioned that today’s testing requirements for nanomaterials under REACH are unclear, and available testing guidelines are mostly not validated for nanomaterials -> large legal uncertainty associated with nanos, and industry needs clear advice/guidance from ECHA about this (e.g. via extra guidance or a moratorium to annexes).

**PGM blacks:**



- not included in PMC scope before freezing end 2015
- considered UVCBs (compositions depends on the production process and varies between batches of the same production process)
- expected to have a small tonnage (<1 tpa)
- proposal made to consider PGM blacks as a mixture (when registering), but this might potentially have serious consequences for the 'bulk' substance (data requirements driven by aggregated tonnage) contained in the mixture.

During last CARACAL meeting, ECHA and EU Member States were stressing that almost no nanomaterials have been registered, and that nanos will be in the focus in the near future at ECHA REACH Forum (e.g. via enforcement project). As there is already scientific evidence available on nanoPGMs within PMC membership (cf. slide 7), the participants agreed it is advisable to anticipate to the REACH Forum plans in order to not be caught by surprise in case of enforcement process:

- it was proposed to launch again a survey within the PMC membership (focus on PMC substances only!). Aim is for companies to look into their portfolio if and what nanomaterials they have and to be able to demonstrate this in case of enforcement.
- where required, additional testing might be considered (cf. PMC nanomaterial characterization project 2015).
- the above actions should allow to develop a clear position on the presence (or not) of additional nanomaterials (i.e. next to nanoAg) in the PMC membership.
- this knowledge needs to be developed internally, and potential consequences for the future budget need to be considered afterwards.

It was discussed that this is a clear threat for the catalyst industry. Discussions are ongoing within CEFIC / ECMA, but there are major concerns on analytics for nanomaterials and the regulatory consequences. ECMA is currently drafting a guidance for its members about this. It was agreed to stay in contact with ECMA on this issue to ensure consistency.

#### **ACTIONS:**

**The participants agreed PMC should be prepared to the maximum possible for a potential enforcement action on nanomaterials. The proposed actions:**

- **PMC workplan for 2018 includes a literature review for nanoAu**
- **PMC secretariat to discuss internally i) a screening exercise to identify potential nanomaterials and ii) a potential prioritization of PMC nanomaterials for 2018/19 workplan**
- **Liaise on a regular basis with ECMA on guidance under development to ensure consistency**

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