

Nickel Industry: How to address the next regulatory challenges

Tokyo (Japan), 28 November 2013

Introduction

The Nickel Institute is hosting a workshop on the UN Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for classification and labeling of chemicals, regulatory developments and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). The purpose is to discuss and highlight the importance of a science-based approach to decision-making and the classification of metals globally and present the status of the ongoing work on LCA related matters.

APEC economies produce 70% and consume 60% of the world's metals and minerals. A science-based approach to the regulation of metals and alloys is essential to ensure the sustainability of production and use of metals in APEC economies while at the same time safeguarding human health and the environment.

Objectives

- To raise awareness of how the UN GHS process can and will impact on the use of nickel containing chemicals through hazard classifications and subsequent increased downstream regulation in the areas of occupational health and environmental controls. It is vital that classifications and subsequent downstream regulation are based on sound science and follow a risk-based approach.
- Highlight findings of a recent APEC study on the socio-economic impact of EU hazard classifications of some 138 nickel-containing chemicals focusing on Japan and detail ongoing outreach within the APEC organisation.
(http://publications.apec.org/publication-detail.php?pub_id=1288).
- Present and report on the outcome of a Nickel Institute project designed to understand the current status of GHS implementation in 29 countries (including 15 APEC economies) around the globe relevant for the production and use of nickel metal and nickel containing chemicals. The project outcomes also include hazard classification & labeling recommendations for these nickel containing chemicals in all these jurisdictions.
- To provide an overview of global regulatory developments, including REACH status for Nickel and Nickel chemicals.
- To provide the outcome of the Life Cycle Inventory (LCI) update and ongoing work on nickel stocks and flows modeling, recycling and life cycle assessments.

The Nickel Institute believes that the workshop will contribute significantly to understanding the importance of the challenges surrounding the management of nickel metal and chemicals within an evolving global regulatory landscape. Sound science is critical as the basis for classification and labelling while risk-based approaches to regulatory measures are critical

for optimal outcomes. This in turn provides the necessary protection of human health and the environment while ensuring that the economic benefits of nickel use are exploited. A better understanding of the challenges by the nickel industry based in Japan will support engagement with regulatory authorities in the region.

Who should attend?

- NI member companies based in Japan (e.g. Sumitomo, Pacific Metal, Vale Japan Co. Ltd, JFE): this is an opportunity to update different business units impacted by the regulatory process on the latest developments and on the work done by the NI on critical issues such as GHS, APEC and LCI.
- Downstream and end use sectors using nickel (e.g.: JAMA, electronics industry...): downstream users and major OEMs are more and more concerned about the ongoing regulatory and classification process impacting nickel and nickel containing chemicals. For instance, the NI receives a lot of questions from end users regarding the future uses of the nickel salts. This is an opportunity to update the major Japanese players about the latest regulatory trends and the actions conducted by the NI to minimize and manage the impact of these measures on the nickel industry. Target audience are EHS managers (following the classification a regulatory issues), R&D staff (making the decision on substitution), public affairs managers (in charge of the relationships with the local authorities and which could support future advocacy in Japan) and marketing people who are in contact with DUs and suppliers.

Structure of the Workshop

The workshop will be divided in four sessions – Session one will focus on UN GHS (global harmonized system for classification & labeling of chemicals including ores, metals and alloys) implementation and how the Nickel Institute is assisting its member companies and downstream use sectors to track and manage the implementation in 29 countries globally. A new online database created by the Nickel Institute will be used to illustrate this approach.

Session two will focus on the importance of nickel to APEC economies and the challenges associated with the recent 2009 EU nickel chemical classifications. This will be illustrated using the outcomes of a recent APEC study on the socio-economic impact of the EU nickel compounds classifications for APEC economies.

The third session will focus on regulatory implications of the classification of nickel and nickel containing chemicals in different key regions for the nickel industry from mining to end users and how the Nickel Institute - addresses these challenges.

The final session will highlight the conclusions of the update of the Nickel and Ferronickel LCI data and the life cycle assessments which currently are under preparation. Objective is to demonstrate with different examples the benefits that nickel creates throughout the whole life cycle.

Nickel Industry: How to address the next regulatory challenges - Draft Program

9:00-11:00: GHS implementation and NI online database

9:00-9:15: Welcome and introduction (Dr. Veronique Steukers, Director, Global Government Affairs & Advocacy, Nickel Institute)

9:15-9:45: Status of the GHS implementation and related NI projects (France Capon, Senior Advisor Chemicals Management, Nickel Institute)

9:45-10:00: Presentation of the NI online GHS database with a focus on Japan and GHS (France Capon, Senior Advisor Chemicals Management, Nickel Institute)

10:00-10:30: Q&A Session

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10:30-11:00 - Coffee break
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11:00-12:15: APEC Economies and EU nickel chemicals classification

11:00-11:30: Socio-economic impact assessment of EU nickel compound classifications on APEC Economies: background, methodology and main findings for Japan (TBC)

11:30-12:00: APEC related activities and involvement of the metals industry in the Chemicals Dialogue (Dr. Veronique Steukers, Director, Global Government Affairs & Advocacy, Nickel Institute)

12:00-12:15: Q&A Session

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12:15-13:00: Lunch break
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13:00-14:45: Regulatory Implications

13:00-13:30: Chemicals management: regulatory developments and metal specific issues (Dr. Veronique Steukers, Global Regulatory Affairs Director, Nickel Institute)

13:30-14:00: Learning lessons from EU REACH for Chemicals Management systems in other regions (France Capon, Senior Advisor Chemicals Management, Nickel Institute)

14:00-14:15: Q&A Session

14:15-14:30: Drinking water: a recent important regulatory issue in Japan (Seiichi Tsuyuguchi, Manager, Nickel Institute)

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14:30-14:45: Coffee Break
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14:45-16:30: LCA-LCI

14:45-15:30: Outcome of the LCI update (Dr. Mark Mistry, Senior Advisor, EU Regulatory Affairs, Nickel Institute)

15:30-16:00: Outcome of a LCA Case Study on Nickel containing SS (Dr. Mark Mistry, Senior Advisor, EU Regulatory Affairs, Nickel Institute)

16:00-16:15: Ongoing work on nickel stocks and flows modeling (Dr. Mark Mistry, Senior Advisor, EU Regulatory Affairs, Nickel Institute)

16:15-16:30: Q&A

16:30-17:00: Conclusions and closure of the workshop

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