

## Editorial

*FEPA is well-known by all European abrasives producers who are involved in its technical activities. As President of FEPA, I am proud to present this news-letter and I wish that it will help you to learn about these activities and the benefits you can get from them as producers, and also as users of abrasives. I address a special thanks to the partners of FEPA: Bipro, Cerame Unie, Tassia and FEPA Secretary for their contribution to the FEPA works and to these articles.*

Dieter Hermann  
President of FEPA

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Producers of Abrasive

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## The revised European Safety Standard for Superabrasives has been published by CEN on Nov 23rd 2010

The first major revision of EN13236 - Safety Requirements for Superabrasives, originally published in 2001 has been completed with the involvement of a special FEPA working group of member experts.

The revised standard will now be published by the national standards bodies and there is a twelve-month transition period for it to be adopted. From December 2011, all superabrasives marked with EN 13236 must comply with this new standard. The main changes to the standard are:

- Revision of the destructive and non-destructive bending test requirements for cutting-off wheels
- Restrictions to the use of slots and holes in the steel blanks for cutting-off wheels
- Limitations to segment height for cutting-off wheels
- New marking requirements involving pictograms and traceability

Note: EN 13236 is mandatory for all products sold in France for use on hand held electric machines (French Decree Raffarin). These products not only have to comply with EN13236 but also to the requirements of the French Decree, particularly regarding the use of warning pictograms.

More information at FEPA & SNAS ([snas-abrasifs.com](http://snas-abrasifs.com))

## First REACH registration deadline passed

On 30 November 2010 the first REACH deadline passed for registration of substances manufactured or imported above 1,000 tonnes/year, CMR substances (cat. 1 and 2) above 1 tonnes/year and R50/53 substances (very toxic to aquatic organisms) above 100 tonnes/year.

According to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) more than 24,000 registration dossiers on approximately 3,400 substances were received by this deadline. ECHA is administering and regularly updating on its homepage a list of registered substances along with a dissemination database of the respective registration dossiers.

The next REACH registration deadlines are due on 31 May 2013 (for substances between 100 – 1000 t/a) and on 31 May 2018 (for substances between 1-100 t/a), respectively.

## REACH consortia under FEPA umbrella

Currently three REACH consortia are operating under the umbrella of FEPA, namely for the substances naphthalene, diamond and cubic boron nitride.

The FEPA naphthalene consortium played a significant role in securing the supply and use of naphthalene under REACH for the abrasives industry. In a collaborating approach with the manufacturers of naphthalene (R4CC consortium) the FEPA consortium elaborated Annexes VII-X of the REACH registration dossier as well as the corresponding exposure scenario for the abrasives industry. The full registration dossier for naphthalene has been successfully submitted to ECHA by the first registration deadline.

The REACH registration dossiers for diamond (100-1000 t/a) and cubic boron nitride (1-100 t/a) are currently being finalized and will be submitted to ECHA by the end of March 2011.



**New published**  
**EN 13236**

## “Voluntary Product Information” templates available

Under the REACH Regulation the status and importance of the safety data sheet has changed. Safety data sheets are documents with a legally defined scope which have to fulfill certain requirements related to the format and content (Annex II of the REACH Regulation). Following the REACH Regulation the communication of important information via Safety Data Sheets (SDS) is only foreseen for **substances** and **mixtures**. For **articles** a safety data sheet is not foreseen under REACH.

**Abrasive products** meet the criteria of **articles** according to REACH with exception of polishes and pastes which are defined as mixtures or substances. Consequently no safety data sheets have to be provided by abrasive producers for most of their products.

However, many customers of the abrasive industry are used to the format and structure of a safety data sheet and prefer the communication of information on abrasive products in this form.

Therefore the abrasive industry has decided to continue to provide this voluntary information on a safe use and handling of abrasives in the form of a

### “Voluntary Product Information (VPI) based on the format of a safety data sheet”.

To support their members FEPA provides VPI templates for the four different abrasive types (coated, inorganic bonded, organic bonded, super abrasives). A manual for the completion of the VPI is also available. Currently the VPI are available in English and German at the Environment and Health section of the FEPA homepage (see Topics → Safety data sheets). Other languages are under preparation.

## Statistics on EU environmental taxes

On 6 January the European statistical office - Eurostat - published the figures concerning environmental taxes in 27 Member States for the year 2007. According to this publication, an environmental tax is defined as “a tax whose base is a physical unit of something that has a proven specific negative impact on the environment”. The figures provide an analysis three categories of taxes (energy, transport and pollution/resource taxes), as well as a breakdown by the tax-payers (business sector, public sector, households as consumers and others).

In 2007 the revenue from environmental taxes in the EU-27 was €304 bn and accounted for almost 2.5% of GDP and 6.2% of total taxes and social contributions. Denmark recorded by far the highest level of environmental taxation (5.9% of GDP). Four countries (the Netherlands, Malta, Bulgaria and Cyprus) had environmental taxes between 3% and 4% of GDP. Only two Member States (Spain and Lithuania) registered levels of environmental taxes slightly below 2% of their GDP. All the other Member States registered a taxation level between 2% and 3% of their GDP.

The publication also provides an interesting comparison between the amount of environmental taxes and the total GHG emissions. The figures show that five countries are responsible for more than 60% of the EU-27 total GHG emissions (Germany, UK, Italy, France and Spain). At the same time, these countries represent a little over 65% of the environmental taxes. In absolute figures, the highest amount of taxes is paid in Germany (€54 bn, followed by the UK with €50 bn and France with €41 bn.

The breakdown by tax payers shows that the business sector and households are usually the main payers of environmental taxes. In most EU countries households pay between 20% and 60 % of total energy taxes, while business activities between 25% to 75%.

## Forthcoming FEPA and Cerame Unie Meetings \*

When	What	Where
Feb. 24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>	FEPA Working Groups	Paris (France)
March 8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	Cerame Unie Environment Committee and Meeting of Directors	Brussels (Belgium)
April 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup>	FEPA: Technical Commissions	Paris (France)
April 15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	UAMA Spring congress	Longboat Key (Florida - USA)
June 15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	ISO General	
June 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	FEPA Congress	Stockholm (Sweden)
June 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	and post-congress	
November 14 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	FEPA Technical Meetings	**
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	Cerame Unie General Assembly and EP Ceramic Forum	Brussels (Belgium)

\* Including partners like UAMA in the USA or ISO; \*\* to be determined