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Information on compliance of Safety Data Sheets to the revised Annex II of REACH

Background and current situation

The legal requirements governing Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) are an integral part of the REACH regulation, with Annex II of REACH describing the required content of SDSs.

The new version of this Annex was enacted on 31 May 2010 in the Official Journal of the European Union (Regulation (EU) No 453/2010), adapting the REACH Regulation to the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation.

These new requirements should be implemented by 1 December 2010 for all SDSs of hazardous substances that are relabeled under GHS and for new mixtures. For all other substances and mixtures already on the market there is a transition period until 1 December 2012. For non hazardous substances and mixtures without hazardous ingredients there is no legal requirement to issue a SDS.

Due to complexity of the changes required, most companies are unable to observe the tight deadline. Neither is it possible to create the technical prerequisites and the large number of new information elements, nor can consistency checks be carried out during this short time period.

Chemical Trade Associations, such as the German Organization of Chemical Industry (VCI), have highlighted the difficulties to the EU commission and have asked them not to insist on compliance with the requirements of Annex II during 2011. Therefore, it is not expected that national authorities will require compliance with Annex II before the end of 2011.

Furthermore, it should not be forgotten that the amendments required by Annex II are mainly for formal reasons. Being non compliant in this context does not lead to a lack of safety relevant data/information.

Schedule

In view of the technical and organizational problems in the implementation of these new requirements (as mentioned above) S.A. Citrique Belge N.V. will adopt the following timeline:

- SDSs for hazardous substances fulfilling the requirements of Annex II REACH will be prepared as soon as practicable, and are aimed for end of 2011.
- Adapted SDSs for non hazardous substances will be available by the end of 2012.

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