



# Workplace Quality News

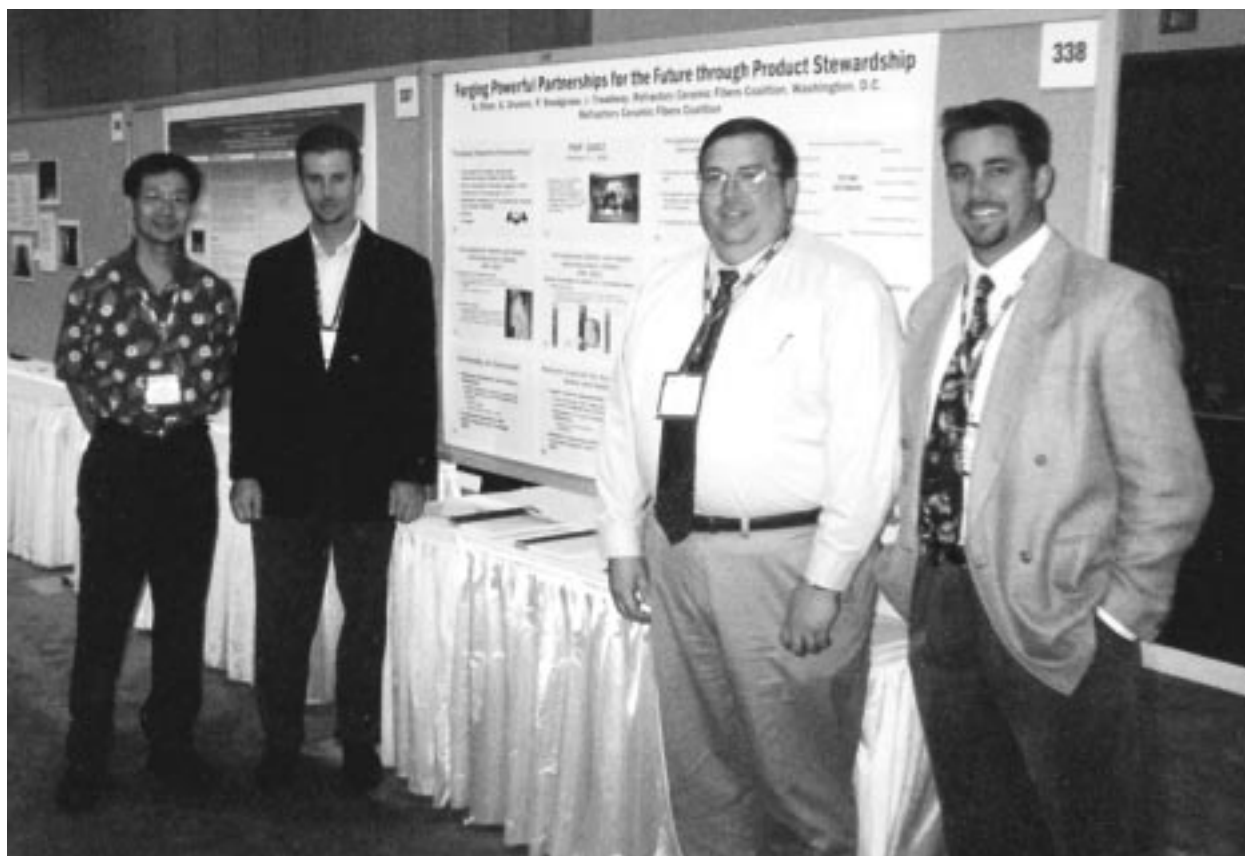
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Number 17, September, 2002

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## 2002 American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition



*RCFC Members from L to R: Steve Chen (Thermal Ceramics), Greg Drumm (Unifrax), Jeff Treadway (Vesuvius), Patrick Snodgrass (Unifrax)*

# 2002 American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition

*Patrick Snodgrass, CSP, Senior Health and Safety Engineer*

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The American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition (AIHCE) was held this year in San Diego, California on June 1-6, 2002. As always, Unifrax attended the conference and this year was part of the Refractory Ceramic Fibers Coalition (RCFC) technical poster presentation on product stewardship. The theme of the conference was "Powerful Partnerships" and the RCFC poster was appropriately titled "Forging Powerful Partnerships through Product Stewardship."

The intent of the poster was to present an overview of the partnerships that Unifrax and the RCFC have developed through the years to form the now comprehensive Product Stewardship Program 2002 (PSP 2002), as well as illustrate continuing partners in all aspects of health, safety, and environmental.

Highlighting the poster was the intro-

duction of PSP 2002 with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in February 2002. A photo of Assistant Secretary of Labor John Henshaw signing the document was included as well as an overview of what PSP 2002 entails. Emphasis was placed on the key elements of the program such as airborne fiber monitoring, the Recommended Exposure Guideline (REG) of 0.5 f/cc, and work practices when handling refractory ceramic fiber (RCF).

In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), University of Cincinnati (U of C), and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) were shown as instrumental partners early in the product stewardship development. These partners were promoted as part of the EPA Consent Order from 1989-1998, U of C health monitoring, and the NIOSH health hazard assessment on

RCF finishing activities in the 1990s.

The final partners included on the poster were the European Ceramic Fibre Industry Association (ECFIA) and Environment Canada. This presented a truly international approach to product stewardship of RCF.

The overall impression of the poster by conference attendees was positive. In fact, the impression was so positive that the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Product Stewardship Committee awarded "Best Product Stewardship Poster of the Conference" to the RCFC. A monetary grant will be awarded as well as recognition in the *Synergist* and on the AIHA Product Stewardship web page.

If you would like a copy of the poster in PowerPoint format, please contact Patrick Snodgrass at 716-278-3967.

## Biopersistence Certificates Available on [www.unifrax.com](http://www.unifrax.com)

*By Greg Drumm, Sr. Environmental Analyst  
Russ Person, Sr. Product Safety Specialist*

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As high temperature fiber companies become more involved in international commerce, they may encounter a variety of new rules and regulations specific to the region in which they conduct business.

Businesses whose affairs may involve European Union companies, commonly request "biopersistence certifications" for some fiber products including Unifrax's Insulfrax® and Isofrax® thermal insulation products.

These certifications are essentially documentation that a fiber has passed a specialized biopersistence study as specified by the European Union and/or a member country.

In an effort to make these readily available to our customers, we have included copies of these certificates at the Unifrax web site ([www.unifrax.com](http://www.unifrax.com)).

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To locate these certificates, first go to [www.unifrax.com](http://www.unifrax.com).

Next click on the “Health/Safety” button (near the bottom of the page), which will open the Product Stewardship page. Once the Product Stewardship page is open, scroll down to the table titled “OTHER RELEVANT PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATION.”

Click on the “Fraunhofer / RCC certificates.”

You will then see the following certificates available in German, English, or French:

[Fraunhofer Certificate — Insulfrax Inhalation](#)

[RCC Certificate — Isofrax IT](#)

[Fraunhofer Certificate — Isofrax](#)

[Fraunhofer Certificate — Insulfrax IT](#)

[Fraunhofer Certificate — Insulfrax Inhalation](#)

Clicking on one of the certificate links, in whichever language you choose, will open the certificate in Adobe “pdf” format. You may then print this certificate for your purposes. (Note: Alteration of any of these certificates is strictly prohibited.)

If you have any questions regarding these certificates or other Product Stewardship or health/safety related questions, please call the Product Stewardship hotline at 1-800-322-2293 or use the “Contact Us” form available on the web site.

# A New CAS Number for Alkaline Earth Silicate Wools

*By Russ Person, Sr. Product Safety Specialist*

The Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) Registry is the largest substance identification system in existence. When a chemical substance is newly encountered in the literature processed by CAS, identifying information is added to the Registry and assigned a unique CAS Registry Number. The Registry now contains records for more than 41 million substances.

CAS Registry Numbers are used in reference works, databases, and regulatory compliance documents by many organizations around the world to identify substances without the ambiguity of chemical nomenclature.

To obtain a CAS number for a chemical substance, compositional data must be provided for the substance, along with any available structural information, and any other information that would be helpful in describing the substance. The CAS chemists review the application and assign a CAS number, if they determine that the substance in question is a unique chemical substance.

In the past, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) numbers have been established for “Refractories, fibers, aluminosilicate” (RCF) and the more general “Glass, oxide, chemicals” (fiberglass).

More recently, CAS has established a definition for the new

generation of high temperature insulation fibers, alkaline earth silicate (AES) wools. AES wools, such as Insulfrax® and Isofrax® Thermal Insulation Products, are specifically designed to have high solubility and thus, low in vivo biodegradability. Among other advantages, the new CAS number provides an unambiguous taxonomy for more precisely listing the identity of ingredients on Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs).

The new CAS entry is as follows:

RN 436083-99-7 REGISTRY COPYRIGHT 2002 ACS  
CN Synthetic fibers, alkaline earth silicate (CA INDEX NAME)

Other Names:

CN AES wool

CN Alkaline earth silicate wool

DEF Chemical substances manufactured in the form of fibers. This category encompasses substances produced by blowing or spinning a molten mixture of alkaline earth oxides, silica, and other minor/trace oxides. It melts around 1500°C (2732°F). It consists predominantly of silica (50-82 wt.%), calcia and magnesia (18-43 wt.%), alumina, titania, and zirconia (less than 6 wt.%), and trace oxides.

**Unifrax Corporation**  
**2351 Whirlpool Street**  
**NF, NY 14305-2413**

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## **Workplace Quality News Information Guide**

### **NUMBER 17**

(Order Code: CHQ-wqn-17)

- 2002 American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition
- Biopersistence Certificates Available on [www.unifrax.com](http://www.unifrax.com)
- A New CAS Number for Alkaline Earth Silicate wools

### **NUMBER 16**

(Order Code: CHQ-wqn-16)

- OSHA Signs Letter of Support for RCFC's PSP
- No Change in IARC Carcinogen Classification
- Fiber Ranges Chart

### **NUMBER 15**

(Order Code: CHQ-wqn-15)

- FoamFrax™ Insulation
- New Magnesium Silicate Fiber "Isofrax™"
- Health and Safety Resources

### **NUMBER 14**

(Order Code: Amh-wqn-14)

- ACGIH Adopts RCF TLV
- Fire Protection Applications
- Fiber Waste Management

### **NUMBER 13**

(Order Code: Amh-wqn-13)

- PSP 2000 - The Strategic Plan
- AIHCE Conference Activities
- Vacuum Former Establishes In-House Monitoring Program

**Anyone interested in Issues 1-12, call the PSP Hotline at 1-800-322-2293**



*For MSDS's or Product Information:*

*Unifrax Corporation*

*2351 Whirlpool Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14305-2413*

*Telephone: 716-278-3800*

*Telefax: 1-800-FAX-FIBR (1-800-329-3427)*

*[www.unifrax.com](http://www.unifrax.com) email: [info@unifrax.com](mailto:info@unifrax.com)*

*For Product Stewardship Information and General Health Literature/Assistance:*

*Telephone: 716-278-3809 Fax: 716-278-3901*

*PSP Hotline: 1-800-322-2293*

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