



UNIFRAX

Product Stewardship Program

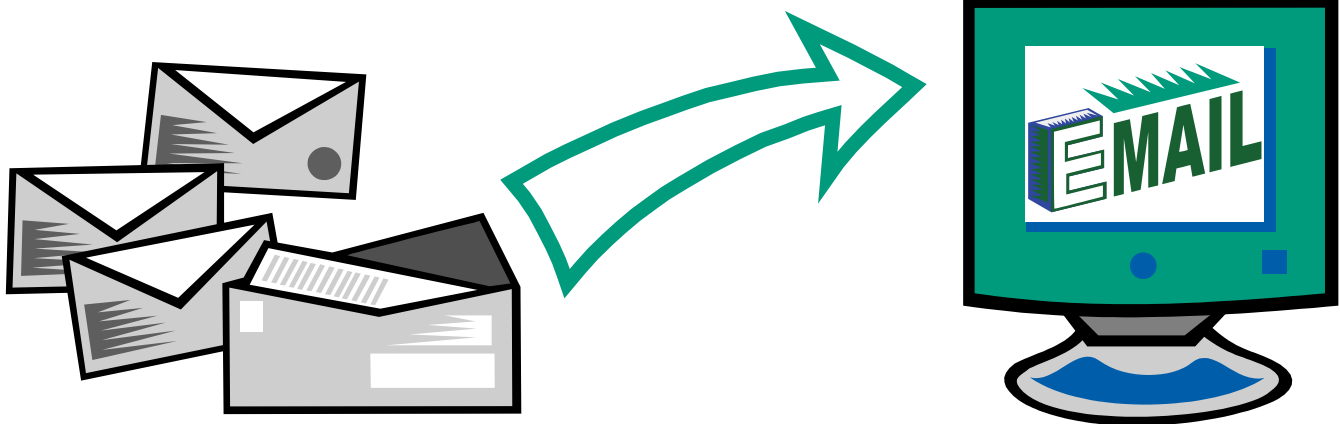
Workplace Quality News

Number 28, April 2010

Workplace Quality News Goes “Green”

By: Russ Person, Sr. Product Safety Specialist

Twice a year, Unifrax has published a paper edition of *Workplace Quality News* with an average of 6,000 recipients. As you know, Unifrax products provide environmental benefits, including the reduction of greenhouse gases, energy conservation and pollution control. Well over 55% of the Unifrax production goes into “Green” applications for energy savings or air pollution control devices. For each 100,000 BTU’S of energy savings, the Unifrax product can reduce CO₂ by more than five tons!



To be consistent with our “Green” philosophy toward the environment, Unifrax is shifting the publication of *Workplace Quality News* (WQN) to an all-digital format. As always, *Workplace Quality News* will be available on our website, <http://www.unifrax.com>. Note that going forward, *Workplace Quality News* will no longer be mailed in print format, so if you’d like to receive a pdf of *Workplace Quality News* via e-mail, please send us an e-mail to: workplacequality@unifrax.com.

Send us your e-mail now to ensure your continued receipt of Workplace Quality News!
workplacequality@unifrax.com

The State of California Passes an Occupational Exposure Limit of 0.2 f/cc for Refractory Ceramic Fiber (RCF)

By: Dean Venturin, Ph.D., Director, Health, Safety and Environmental Quality

On December 17, 2009, the state of California's Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (the Board) finalized a proposal to establish a permissible exposure limit for RCF of 0.2 f/cc. This recommendation was approved by the California Office of Administrative Law on February 3, 2010, and will be effective in six months, on August 3, 2010.

Enforcement of California's occupational health standards is the responsibility of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH). In the Board's Final Statement of Reasons for the recommendation, the board stated, "The Division has determined that the time has come to confront the manner in which current enforcement approaches are affected by variability in exposure assessment and has expressed a commitment to begin discussion of this issue publicly."

The Board's Final Statement of Reasons goes on to

embrace what is known as the "worker lifetime" principle embodied in Labor Code Section 144.6 by stating, "One enforcement option consistent with this principle could allow an employer to demonstrate that, although individual samples may exceed 0.2 f/cc on occasion, it has reliably characterized 8-hour TWA exposures overall to be below 0.2 f/cc for workers in similar exposure scenarios, the Division would accept these results if the enforcing officer's own sampling on a single occasion indicates that the level of 0.5 f/cc has not been exceeded."

Unifrax is committed to assisting distributors and end users of RCF products with reducing and controlling workplace exposures through actions taken under the industry's Product Stewardship Program. For more information, please contact your Unifrax Sales Engineer or call the Health Hotline at (800) 322-2293.

REACH Update — The Candidate Listing of RCF

By: Dean Venturin, Ph.D., Director, Health, Safety and Environmental Quality

The European Union (EU) has adopted a regulation for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH), which came into effect June 1, 2007. Unifrax has pre-registered all of our high-temperature insulation wools and we will finalise our full registration in accordance with the REACH requirements by December 2010.

As part of the REACH process, the European Member State Committee decided to include Aluminosilicate Refractory Ceramic Fibers (RCF) Fiberfrax® and Aluminosilicate Zirconia Fibers (AZS), in Annex XV, the so called "Candidate List," of substances of very high concern (SVHC). This listing by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), published on their website (www.echa.eu) on January 13, 2010, is based on the existing Cat. 2 carcinogen classification of RCF as listed in Annex I of directive 67/548/EEC.

Substances selected for the candidate list can also be selected for authorization under REACH. If a substance is selected for authorization, it means that

applications or use categories for that material will be evaluated by ECHA. The material can be "authorized" for continued use, where no viable substitute exists or in applications where the risk is demonstrated to be negligible.

So what does this mean for resellers or exporters of RCF and AZS products into Europe? Resellers and exporters into Europe need to inform their customers about the inclusion of RCF and AZS on the candidate list. There is no change in substance classification or any new scientific data and the industry's existing recommendations on safe handling and use remain, as stated on the material safety data sheets (MSDS). The candidate listing of RCF & AZS fibers does not impact alkali earth silicate "soluble" fiber products.

Unifrax is committed to keeping you up-to-date on REACH and how it impacts high-temperature insulating wool products. If you have any questions, please contact the Unifrax Health Hotline (800) 322- 2293.

Websites Related to Synthetic Vitreous Fiber Health Issues

By: Russ Person, Sr. Product Safety Specialist

This article is an update to a previous *Workplace Quality News* article on Synthetic Vitreous Fiber health related websites, first published in 2006.

<http://www.unifrax.com>

The Unifrax home page contains a convenient link to Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for all of Unifrax products. In the **Company Overview** area, the **Product Stewardship** link contains the full text of many recent *Workplace Quality News* issues, an overview of PSP HTW (the voluntary worker protection agreement with OSHA and RCFC), and IT and inhalation study certificates for Insulfrax® and Isofrax® Thermal Insulation Products.

<http://www.rcfc.net>

The **Refractory Ceramic Fibers Coalition** (RCFC) develops and promotes proper work practices and standards for the industry, conducts health research and disseminates information on the proper handling and use of refractory ceramic fiber (RCF). The site includes a background on the RCF industry, characteristics and applications of RCF, overviews of human and animal studies, and a summary of risk assessments. Another useful document on the site is the RCFC's Customer Self Monitoring Program, to assist customers in obtaining monitoring data.

<http://www.ecfia.eu>

ECFIA, Representing the High Temperature Insulation Wool Industry in Europe, is an association that provides information on health and safety aspects of RCF and high temperature insulation wools in Europe. The site contains information on European Union directives, MSDSs and ECFIA's Controlled and Reduced Exposure (CARE) program.

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts161.html>

The **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)**, based in Atlanta, Georgia, is a federal public health agency of the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**. ATSDR has a general profile related to the potential adverse effects of SVF. This page also contains a more detailed Toxicological Profile for Synthetic Vitreous Fibers at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp161.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2006-123/>

This **NIOSH** criteria document is derived from reviews of information from human and animal studies of the toxicity of refractory ceramic fibers (RCFs) and is intended to describe the potential health effects of occupational exposure to airborne fibers.

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/syntheticmineralfibers/index.html>

This **OSHA** site includes topics such as the potential health hazards of synthetic vitreous fibers, exposure evaluation, control and prevention of hazards, and applicable OSHA standards.

Unifrax I LLC
2351 Whirlpool Street
NF, NY 14305-2413

Prstd Std
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 28
Nia. Falls, NY

Workplace Quality News Information Guide

NUMBER 28

(Order Code: CHQ-wqn-28)

- *Workplace Quality News Goes Green*
- The State of California Passes an Occupational Exposure Limit of 0.2 f/cc for RCF
- REACH Update — The Candidate Listing of RCF
- Websites Related to Synthetic Vitreous Fiber Health Issues

NUMBER 27

(Order Code: CHQ-wqn-27)

- Unifrax and the REACH Substance Information Exchange Forum (SIEF)
- Customer Self-Monitoring Program

NUMBER 26

(Order Code: CHQ-wqn-26)

- A Successful Study of the Capture Efficiency of Shrouded Finishing Tools

NUMBER 25

(Order Code: CHQ-wqn-25)

- OSHA Renews support for the RCFC's PSP
- A Far Reaching Chemical Regulation in the EU
- Fiber Ranges Chart

NUMBER 24

(Order Code: CHQ-wqn-24)

- NIOSH Criteria Document on Refractory Ceramic Fibers
- UniFrax Presents PSP Poster at ASSE Conference
- Web Sites Related to Synthetic Vitreous Fiber Health Issues

Anyone interested in Issues 1-23,
call the PSP Hotline at 1-800-322-2293



For MSDS's or Product Information:

Unifrax I LLC

2351 Whirlpool Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14305-2413

Telephone: 716-278-3800

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

www.unifrax.com email: 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

The information, recommendations and opinions set forth herein are offered solely for your consideration, inquiry and verification and are not, in part or total, to be construed as constituting a warranty or representation for which we assume legal responsibility. Nothing contained herein is to be interpreted as authorization to practice a patented invention without a license.

All trademarks and registered trademarks used herein are the sole property of the Unifrax I LLC.