

## **Position (dated 13/09/2010) of the European Steel Industry on Steel Scrap & REACH<sup>1</sup>**

Steel scrap being a waste falls outside the scope of REACH. In case the substances in steel scrap are recovered, either in non-waste scrap (by scrap processing) or directly in steel products (by scrap melting), the legal entity operating the recovery process - for example EAF producers - can use Article 2(7)(d) of the REACH Regulation to claim an exemption from registration for the substances intentionally recovered from it. In order to use this exemption, all of the following **conditions** must be fulfilled

### **1. the recovered substance must already have been registered**

- As soon as the Lead Registrants have made their joint submissions, the registration numbers issued by ECHA will confirm the registrations. So, the most straightforward way is to compare the recovered substance to the ECHA list of registered substances. *The exemption defined in Article 2(7)(d) does not require that the substance has been registered by an actor in the same supply chain.*

*- The constituents that will be registered by the primary producers, who are supported by the Iron Platform and the other metals consortia, are amongst others Fe, Cr, Ni, Mo*

### **2. the substance(s) is/are recovered<sup>2</sup> in the Community<sup>3</sup>**

### **3. the recovered substance(s) is/are the same as the registered substance(s); i.e. have the same chemical identity and properties**

- This should have been guaranteed via the sameness surveys conducted after pre-registration in order to form the SIEF(s).

- For single recovered substances (e.g. iron recovered from carbon steel scrap), it is recommended that, in accordance with the ECHA guidance for identification and naming of substances (sameness criterion), maximum of flexibility is applied to composition ranges taking into account any issues with regard to classification. Mono-constituent substances may contain up to 20% impurities (including the steriles).

- Where two or more substances are recovered, these recovered materials must be treated as a mixture. Thus, the legal entity performing the recovery operation must demonstrate the sameness of each recovered substance with the corresponding registered substance. For mixtures, it is impossible to meaningfully assign impurities to the individual metals intended for recovery. Especially, the substances in the steriles. Therefore, it is recommended that the mixture as a whole contains a maximum 20% impurities (including the steriles) and taking into account any issues with regard to classification.

- The recoverer has to demonstrate the sameness of the recovered and registered substance(s). This may be achieved by chemical analysis.

*- It is commonly known that single metals do not change their chemical identity neither during scrap processing nor during the scrap melting.*

### **4. the information in the supply chain required by Articles 31 (in case of Safety Data Sheets) or 32 (in case no Safety Data Sheet is required) relating to the**

---

1 This position is supported by Cr, Ni, Mo consortia

2 Recital 22 of the Waste Framework Directive states that for „the purposes of reaching end-of-waste status, a recovery operation may be as simple as the checking of waste to verify that it fulfills the end-of-waste criteria.“

3 Community = European Economic Area (EAA) which is EU-27 + Iceland + Norway + Lichtenstein

**substance that has been registered is available to the establishment undertaking the recovery**

- The steel industry, in close co-operation with the non-ferrous metals sector, will describe the uses of the recovered substances in steel in the dossiers for the metals used in steel production. In order to comply with this requirement of Article 2(7)(d), the scrap recovery industry needs information about the substances it recovers and the European steel and non-ferrous metals industry will assist this process. However, it is important to emphasise that legitimate access<sup>4</sup> to the data must be obtained under the condition set by its owners<sup>5</sup>.

Notwithstanding all this, the recoverer is the legal entity responsible for placing the recovered substance(s) on the market, for its/their safe use throughout its/their new lifecycle.

---

4 „When using an existing SDS, he should, therefore, make sure that he has legitimate access to the information, and that the hazard profile of his recovered substance is adequately covered by this existing SDS (see section 2.4.2)“; see page 12 of the ECHA Guidance on waste and recovered substances version May 2010

5 It is recommended to contact the relevant consortia to check how to have legitimate access