

HOLDING STATEMENT

D4 and D5 are safe in their intended uses

Brussels, 15 September 2015 – Following the United Kingdom's proposal to restrict the use of cyclotetrasiloxane (D4) and cyclopentasiloxane (D5) (or general cyclomethicone) in wash off personal care products, the silicones industry wishes to underscore its opinion that D4 and D5 are safe in their intended uses.

Current REACH criteria were developed for carbon-based chemistry decades ago and might fail to accurately assess silicon-based materials. As result, they over predict their potential for bioaccumulation and concentration in the environment.

We recognise and respect the decision of ECHA's Member States Committee however we do not believe that D4 and D5 behave as conventional PBT¹ or vPvB², as demonstrated by the latest scientific information of these substances and their behaviour in the environment.

"Environmental monitoring data collected by the global silicones industry and governmental regulatory agencies demonstrate that D4 and D5 are not found at levels that pose a risk to health or the environment", commented **Dr. Pierre Germain**, Secretary General of CES – Silicones Europe.

There is nothing more important to the silicone industry than the safety of our products. Over four decades of scientific research have been dedicated to assess the safety of our substances relative to workers, consumers, the environment and manufacturing processes. The results of this continuous research and testing demonstrate that D4 and D5 are safe in their intended uses.

Environment Canada, having reviewed the environmental data available for D4, has not imposed any product concentration restrictions on the use of D4 in any application. In addition, a comprehensive, risk-based assessment of the data conducted by an independent, group of leading scientific experts selected by the Canadian Government concluded that D5 does not pose a risk to the environment. The safety of D4 and D5 in personal care products has also been established by independent expert panels, including the European Scientific Committee for Consumer Safety in 2010, the United States Cosmetics Review Panel, and Health Canada.

We will continue to work with regulatory authorities on the development of proportionate regulatory assessments under REACH and associated management measures that minimise environmental impacts while facilitating innovation, jobs creation and economic growth.

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About cyclosiloxanes D4 and D5:

D4 and D5 are cyclosiloxanes, basic members of the broad family of silicone materials. D4 and D5 are two of the three cyclosiloxanes in commercial production and their use has been proven safe for human health and the environment. For more information on their uses and safety profiles, please visit our **Cyclosiloxanes Information Centre** at www.cyclosiloxanes.org.

About CES – Silicones Europe:

We are a non-profit trade organisation representing all major producers of silicones, silanes and siloxanes in Europe. CES is a sector group of the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), which is both the forum and voice of the European chemicals industry. We provide health, safety and environmental information on silicones and are dedicated to the principles of Responsible Care. For more information, visit www.silicones.eu and follow us on Twitter [@siliconesEU](https://twitter.com/siliconesEU)

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¹ Persistent, Bioaccumulative, Toxic (PBT)

² (very) Persistent, (very) Bioaccumulative and/or Toxic