HOLDING STATEMENT

The Silicones Industry supports the UK's proportionate proposal with regards to D4 and D5

Brussels, 10 February 2016 – 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.

"While we continue to question the basis of the restriction, our industry is committed to working with regulatory authorities on the development of proportionate risk management measures that minimise environmental impacts and facilitate innovation, jobs creation and economic growth", commented **Dr. Pierre Germain**, Secretary General of CES – Silicones Europe.

Current REACH criteria were developed for carbon-based chemistry decades ago and might fail to accurately assess silicon-based materials. As a result, they over-predict their potential for bioaccumulation and concentration in the environment. D4 and D5 do not behave as conventional PBT[1] or vPvB[2], as demonstrated by the latest scientific information of these substances and their behaviour in the environment.

The proposed restriction on wash-off personal care by the United Kingdom represents a balanced approach. The restriction will have a significant impact on the silicones and cosmetics industries alike however we remain committed to assessing the environmental benefits of the restriction as we believe there is nothing more important than the safety of our products.

Broadening the scope of the restriction would have a disproportionate impact on other important silicone products without any added value for health and the environment. We call on authorities to apply the EU principles of better regulation on proportionate and evidence-based legislation.

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.

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.

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.

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[1] Persistent, Bioaccumulative, Toxic (PBT)

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

About cyclosiloxanes D4 and D5:
D4 and D5 are cyclosiloxanes, basic members of the broad family of silicone materials. D4 and D5 are two cyclosiloxanes in commercial production and their use has been proven safe for human health and the environment.

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

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