

Registration for Safe Use of FBC Ash as a Chemical Substance within European REACH Regulation; Results and Prospects

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REACH is an EU regulation concerning Registration, Authorisation, Evaluation and Restriction of Chemicals operating since 1st June 2007. All chemicals manufactured in or imported into the EU have to be registered at the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). The registration requires information on the properties and the potential risks of the substances.

In September of 2010 a Consortium of 120+ FBC Ash Producers, with Utex-Centrum Ltd being a Lead Registrant, managed to successfully register ashes from FBC boilers at ECHA, according to REACH procedures. This was preceded by agreeing upon a Substance Identification Profile, catering for the innate variability of this substance. Then an extensive testing programme was executed, divided into three areas of: physico-chemical properties, toxicology and ecotoxicology leading to a Registration Dossier, which was submitted to ECHA. Results of tests were evaluated and led to adopting a classification of the substance, which is compiled in a Chemical Safety Report. In case of FBC Ashes the Report states that:

“ FBC Ash is not classified according to directive 67/584/EEC. There is no concern from the use of FBC Ash with regards to human or environmental exposure. No risk management measures have been identified as required.”

Though this represents a major step forward allowing for these CCPs being normally used in market practice, REACH system assumes that within two years since the registration, some further studies proposed during the process will be decided and implemented. On top of that, new developments in science and our understanding of interaction of FBC ashes with environment and biosphere may warrant further studies. Nevertheless, being able to compare the properties of FBC ashes with other chemical substances available on the market, within a sophisticated framework of testing, evaluation and classification, is a major step facilitating beneficial use of these CCP materials.