



Flame Retardants: Integral to Fire Safety
European Flame Retardants Association

5th April 2011

Albemarle, Chemtura and ICL-IP have decided to dissolve EBFRI¹ and to integrate - as of the 1st quarter of 2011 - the industry's advocacy activities into EFRA, the European Flame Retardant Association, which represents all flame retardant technologies currently in use. Following a thorough review, this sector group of Cefic is well placed to seize upcoming opportunities and address current and future challenges.

As technology continues to develop and surround us in our daily life (at home, in the work place, and in transport) fire safety requirements cannot be taken for granted. Flame retardants are used to inhibit the spread of fires or delay the time of flashover. It is estimated that escape times can be up to 10 times longer (from 2 to 20 minutes) when flame retardants are present, providing a better opportunity for survival and for fire brigades to intervene. Like most substances, flame retardants undergo rigorous testing before reaching the European market. Many high volume flame retardants have been through a risk assessment either at national or EU level.

EFRA brings together the leading organisations which manufacture, market or use flame retardants in Europe: Albemarle, BASF, Chemtura, ICL-IP, The International Antimony Association (i2a), PCC Rokita, SABIC, Schill & Seilacher and The German Textiles Association (Tegewa).

EFRA seeks to align itself with the entire value chain of the industry it serves through 4 application forums on electrical and electronic equipment, transportation, construction, and upholstered furniture. The forums are key in allowing EFRA to establish relationships with its different stakeholders, to strengthen the dialogue with decision-makers at EU, Member States and international level and to develop specific pro-active programmes supported by sound science. In addition, the Voluntary Emissions Control Action Programme (VECAP)², formerly an EBFRI initiative which evidences industry's commitment to an advanced product stewardship programme, is now carried out under EFRA. Improving the understanding of flame retardants and fire safety in specific applications, as well as developing a valuable source of information relevant to these applications, are essential components of the future activities of EFRA.

We look forward to maintaining our relationship with policy makers and remain available to assist them and other stakeholders with up-to-date information on all flame retardant products.

For further information please contact:

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¹ The European Brominated Flame Retardant Industry Panel (EBFRIP)

² For more information, please go to www.vecap.info



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