

## TURI event highlighted potential cable challenges from EU directives

The Sept. 25 workshop held by the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) covered a range of European directives regarding certain materials and how those requirements could impact U.S. wire and cable manufacturers and their customers.

Specifically, the event covered a wide range of initiatives, including RoHS 2, REACH SVHC, Conflict Minerals, REACH Annex 17, expiration of RoHS Exemptions for Medical/Monitoring Equipment, RoHS Category 11, and more. The below summation is from University of Massachusetts Lowell Research Professor Greg Morose, who also serves as TURI's research manager. He said that the future requirements for chemicals of concern is dynamic, and requires an ongoing effort to track and assess these requirements. He noted that:

- Major data collection efforts from suppliers are necessary to ensure compliance with these regulations. However, it is not simply a data collection effort, the data also need to be validated by methods such as testing a



*TURI panelist Gary Nedelman speaks at Sept. 25 workshop. At left is Alfred Voskian and at right is Ray Lizotte.*

percentage of incoming parts with XRF or other means to validate conformance.

- The REACH regulation will have an impact on many additives for the wire and cable industry, such as plasticizers, heat stabilizers, and flame retardants. For example, lead-based heat stabilizers are very effective in wire and



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cable insulation, but may exceed RoHS and REACH thresholds.

- There are inconsistencies in the implementation of the REACH directive that may affect the wire and cable industry. For example, as of 2015 DEHP cannot be used in the EU to make PVC wire insulation/jacket (unless authorization has been obtained). However, the import of wires with DEHP in the insulation, or as part of an article, might not even require information in the supply chain if it represents <0.1% of total weight of article.

- The investments necessary to address chemicals of concern could be significant. This could include needs for formulation changes, process modifications to minimize cross contamination, analytical tools and measurement devices.

The two speakers for the wire and cable section were Ray Lizotte, Director IT Environmental Stewardship Office, Schneider Electric, and Alfred Voskian, Syska Voskian Consulting. Lizotte and Voskian were joined by Gary Nedelman of AlphaGary for the panel discussion, which was moderated by Morose.

Attendee Mark McClain of American Wire and Cable said that he found the presentations helpful, especially for clarifying who is responsible for what. "Some customers

don't have a good understanding and they ask for stuff that is not applicable," he explained. The presentation also confirmed that the explanation he gives customers about CE marks is correct.

"The question about the expiration of exemptions was very pertinent, and I hadn't seen it discussed anywhere else" said John Wysk, EIS Wire & Cable:

Bill Carbonneau of Dynawave said that he would recommend any company in aerospace and/or defense should have a representative attend such a seminar "because a lot of misinterpretations get clarified."

Brian Page of Quabbin Wire & Cable Co., Inc., observed that it is good to have a broad view of the world, and that the presentations helped explain "which direction this is going."

One other topic that Morose said was of interest relates to the high production volume of PVC plasticizers DEHP, DBP and BBP in Asia, which contrasts with a significant decrease of these plasticizers in Europe and North America.

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