

A UK VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT ON NPE'S

Together with UK associations BACS, BCDTA and GOSIP, CEPAD have implemented their part of a DEFRA, chemical supply industry & downstream users voluntary agreement on the reduction in use of nonylphenol and nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPE)

This agreement is currently the subject of a DEFRA consultation.

CEPAD members with an interest in the production, distribution and importation of NPE will take action to support risk reduction and will inform and advise their customers of the intended marketing and use restrictions and the UK Government's decision to seek voluntary action on accelerated risk reduction.

Many CEPAD members have invested in research and development of alternatives to NPE which have already made a material impact to the replacement of NPE in many downstream applications ahead of formal marketing and use restrictions which will be implemented in 2004. CEPAD members will offer alternatives, which have been demonstrated to be at least functionally equivalent to NPE, and have been shown to pose less risk to human health and the environment.

CIA Director of Responsible Care and HSE policy, Jon Chapman, said "This is the first of what could be a long line of UK supply chain agreements and is a triumph to all parties concerned. It is product stewardship in action and highlights the real need to have the whole supply chain on board to make things happen. This is exactly the type of proactive supply chain agreement that we wish to encourage".

