



FEICA Fact Sheet
on the
FEICA APPROACH TO EXPOSURE SCENARIOS UNDER REACH
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FEICA members' have specific needs under REACH

As the European Association of Adhesive and Sealants manufacturers, FEICA represents Downstream Users under REACH. REACH aims at ensuring that substances are used safely. The descriptions of the conditions for a safe use are made through REACH Exposure Scenarios which are a central instrument of REACH.

REACH obliges FEICA member companies to ensure that the use of substances in their operations complies with the Exposure Scenarios in the Safety Data Sheet provided by their suppliers. In addition, FEICA members will have to provide their customers with Safety Data Sheets for their products. Many of these will include Exposure Scenarios.

FEICA member companies market a large variety of products, many of which are tailored for specific applications. The recipes of their formulations are subject to highest confidentiality as they ensure their place on the market. Hence, FEICA members companies need not only resource-efficient and easy to use solutions for dealing with their specific challenge of communicating uses but they also need a way of communicating their data in a way that allows them to keep the recipe confidential.

Introduction and objectives of the FEICA Approach

FEICA members must be able to check, without spending too much time and resources, whether their own and their customers' uses comply with the suppliers' Exposure Scenarios. In addition communicating Exposure Scenarios for substances in preparations must not breach the confidentiality of the recipes.

FEICA has developed an approach addressing these needs for handling Exposure Scenarios for preparations. This approach leads from standardized generic substance safety assessments to the extended safety data sheet of a preparation. It aims to facilitate an efficient evaluation of preparations which are of 'low' to 'medium' risk so that resources can be focused on the evaluation of preparations which represent a high risk.

Whilst proposing a straightforward approach to evaluating exposure and risk in the chemical safety assessment, the FEICA approach also ensures flexibility in the use of substances and exposure assessment tools.



Key Features of the FEICA approach

The FEICA approach displays the following features:

1. Communication: Simple communication of Exposure Scenarios by focusing on risk-determining substances and employing standard formats.
2. Evaluation: Simple evaluation of the use of preparations by focusing on risk-determining substances.
3. Standardisation: Standardised safety assessments based on commonly agreed set of defaults/rules.
4. Scaling: Simple scaling methods for checking whether or not the use of substances complies with ES.
5. *Voluntary interim evaluation of substances which are not yet REACH-registered.*

Features 1 to 4 relate to actual REACH requirements. Feature 5 is a voluntary measure, which does not address a REACH requirement per se. It represents an interim solution for the transition period during which REACH data will not be available for all substances.

Achievements of the FEICA Exposure Scenario Group so far

- Completion of RIP 3.2-2 Exposure Scenario Exemplification Case Study
- Development of Exposure Scenarios for selected application of 2-C Epoxy Adhesives
- Advocacy for a flexible approach for handling REACH Exposure Scenarios for substance use in adhesives and related products