

RECOVINYL

news

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WELCOME to the latest edition of the Recovynyl Newsletter. In this issue, read the Recycling Council's latest advice on REACH and find out about VEKA's new open days, aimed at increasing the amount of material available for recycling.

REACH – prepare to pre-register

Mark Burstall, Head of the BPF's Recycling Council is advising plastics recyclers to prepare to pre-register substances they are handling in order to comply with REACH (Registration, Evaluation & Authorisation of Chemicals) legislation. As Mark explains:

"The current advice from the Recycling Council is that recyclers will need to consider pre-registering any monomers in the polymers they handle, as well as any other substances that they are aware of, e.g. stabilizers or performance enhancers, fillers, flame retardants etc. In the case of PVC, this will include cadmium and lead stabilizers. They do not need to pre-register any additives that they buy and add during their process."

"Currently it is not clear whether recyclers will have to complete full registration for all substances. It is possible that there will be some form of intervention and recyclers may still benefit from exemption from the registration process."

However, as a precaution, the Recycling Council is urging its members to prepare for pre-registration. Mark continues:

"At this stage we need to start preparing for pre-registration but as yet, we don't know if we will eventually have to go through to registration for these substances. Therefore, we are advising recyclers not to actually pre-register until the last minute, sometime in November, because there is the possibility that the situation may change and recyclers may not be required to go through this process. The advice to recyclers is to start thinking about what you've got. Make a list, establish what the CAS and EINECS reference numbers are for each substance and get that list prepared. This will not be wasted effort because that information will be required for data safety sheets anyway."

Pre-registration will effectively 'buy time' for recyclers as pre-registered substances will benefit from extended registration periods – 2010, 2013 & 2018.

It is important to note that if it emerges that registration is required, but substances have not been pre-registered, then recyclers will not be able to sell material containing these substances from 2nd December 2008 until the process of registration has been completed.

Pre-registration cannot be carried out by industry bodies, it can only be done by individual recyclers. The EuPR (European Plastics Recyclers) is drawing up detailed guidance about the pre-registration process, what to do and how to go about doing it. This will be circulated to all members including all members of the Recycling Council in plenty of time.

If you are not a member of the Recycling Council, you can join by contacting Mark Burstall:
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Axion - Innovation in recycling



VEKA Recycling opens its doors !

To encourage understanding of the PVC-u recycling process and to increase quantities available to recycle Kent based VEKA Recycling Ltd have organised a series of open days at their factory.

"We are trying to encourage the recycling of as much PVC window material as possible" said Tony Cattini, the UK Managing Director. "By offering a sustainable closed loop recycling system to window manufacturers and fitters and to waste transfer stations we are trying to keep this valuable resource as window profile grade material"

"Our customers want an environmentally sound and continuous outlet for their PVC waste and we are able to offer this. The idea behind the open days has been to educate the industry that we are committed to recycling the PVC and that this is a long term commitment that they can work with. At our open days we have talked through the background to our



company, our long term aims and then explained the process. We want to ensure our customers along with our potential customers are confident their waste is being recycled properly and by a responsible company and not lost with other plastics or sent to landfill."

"Our process accepts rigid profile from any original manufacturer whether waste from the window maker or from an old PVC window removed from your home. We do not need the off cuts sorting into colours or the Post consumer frames breaking down. All we ask is for the old frames to be deglazed. And we are even working on that one! We clean and reprocess the waste material and produce an extrusion grade pellet that returns to being a window profile and therefore a new window, thus closing the loop"

Formed in May 2007 VEKA Recycling services the UK and Ireland by working with 6 strategic satellite partners that size reduce to maximise the weight during transport and therefore minimise the carbon footprint of transporting the material. In the 8 months

of operation in 2007 VEKA Recycling processed in excess of 7000 tonnes of PVC window material and are forecasting over 13,000 tonnes for its first full year in 2008.



Their last successful open day on the 8th April focussed on waste transfer stations and recyclers and how best they could utilise the PVC-u waste recycling stream available to them.

"PVC from windows is a highly recyclable resource. Our concern is that through lack of knowledge we are allowing far too much of it to be lost to landfill" said Simon Scholes, VEKA Recycling National Sales Manager. "We are targeting not only the window manufacturers but also waste transfer stations and local government decision makers to enable this valuable resource to be kept from being put into landfill. The PVC is just too good to bury in the ground!"

"We encourage local and national companies to talk with us so we can find the best solution for them and their business so that recycling the PVC is as easy and straightforward as possible. By working with government bodies, local and national businesses we are confident that the message will win through. When you consider that our current technology allows us to recycle a PVC window up to 10 times and each window can be in use for 30 plus years we are sitting on a resource for at least the next 300 years! It would be madness to let this opportunity pass us all by. "

"I hope that by inviting people to understand what is happening to their PVC and seeing where and how it is processed they will be encouraged not only to recycle more themselves but to involve others to increase what is recycled. We are at the start of something huge and VEKA Recycling is ready and waiting! We just need everyone to know about it!"

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