

IN BRIEF

Environment Watch

LANXESS READY FOR PFOS PHASE OUT

Lanxess has said that a recent decision by the European Parliament to restrict the marketing and use of perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS) will not have an impact on its products for the leather industry. The company said that its leather chemicals were already PFOS-free so there was no need for its customers to spend "valuable time and money modifying their recipes when the new directive comes into force."

SAICM GROWTH PLANS

The Secretariat for the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (Saicm) has proposed that a business plan be developed for its Quick Start Programme (QSP). The aim would be to help ensure the sustainability of the QSP trust through steady and equitable financing, from a broad base of donors. The QSP is a financial package aimed at supporting the early activities of Saicm in the developing countries. Initial contributors to the programme included the UK, Norway, Sweden and South Africa.

REPORT CALLS FOR IMPROVED SAFETY

Sasol has released its seventh external sustainability performance report, covering the year to the end of June 2006. The report stresses that while the year was overshadowed by four work-related fatalities, the company believes that zero fatalities is possible if there is "an appropriate culture of safety among all our managers, employees and service providers." The report also highlights reductions in air pollutant emissions and improved water and energy efficiency.

Reporting commitment to sustainability

AISE, THE organisation representing the soaps, detergents and maintenance products industry in Europe, has launched its first annual sustainability report.

The report sets out how companies, which are part of the AISE Charter for Sustainable Cleaning, are committing to ongoing improvement in their sustainability profile at "all stages of the product lifecycle."

The Sustainability report, which includes data from 2005, provides key performance indicators on areas such as water and energy consumption, packaging used, chemical safety evaluation, and consumer and user information.

Speaking at an event held in Brussels to launch the report, Hamish Will, of Unilever's Home and Personal Care R&D Port Sunlight, said: "The data in the report reflects the work of AISE members up to the end of 2005. But we are continuing to see strong interest. And, since the start of 2006, many new companies, from manufactur-



"We are continuing to see strong interest... Many new companies... have signed the Charter"

Hamish Will, Home and Personal Care R&D Port Sunlight, Unilever

ers to retailers, have signed the Charter, which now has 32 members."

Will also stressed that the

WHAT IS THE AISE CHARTER?

Launched in November 2004, the Charter is a voluntary initiative designed to provide benefits to society and the environment. The Charter is based on a lifecycle framework promoting a common industry approach to sustainability practices and reporting. It is open to all companies including manufacturers, distributors or retailers, and members can carry a Charter logo on their packaging.

report was an important tool for helping the sector address societal concerns.

"Transparency is important to our sector and this report provides key data that will help in demonstrating our transparency."

Charles Laroche, president of AISE, added that while the report was a first for the sector, it was part of an "ongoing and long-standing commitment to sustainability."

Green drive part of World Cup team

ENVIRONMENTAL considerations are now "firmly part the World Cup team," according to Achim Steiner, head of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Speaking at the launch of the final report, on the achievements of the Green Goal initiative, which was undertaken by the German organisers of the World Cup

event, Steiner said: "The German local organising committee have put down a clear and unequivocal environmental foundation, from which, future host countries can now build."

The report highlights how, through a range of measures, including the use of renewable energy at stadia, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions

were achieved.

The report adds that "the 30 day tournament will go down in history as the first climate neutral World Cup."

Initiatives aimed at minimising packaging also led to a 17% reduction in waste, compared with a target of 20%.

» For more on the report visit... www.unep.org