

(GROW)

From: . <@eutop.eu>
Sent: 05 August 2015 16:10
To: (GROW)
Cc: (GROW)
Subject: Possible meeting on boric acid
Attachments: Comment on Boric Acid Joint App_Surface technology_2014-11-30.pdf

Dear :

Please allow me to follow up to the fruitful meeting of and from your team with ZVO on 19 May 2015, which was highly appreciated by ZVO.

As representatives of the surface treatment industry ZVO has collected positions among their SME membership as regards another very timely issue, namely the authorization status of borates / boric acid and their use in surface treatment.

In this sector, boric acid is a key component of the plating electrolytes, mainly in the zinc, nickel or chromium(III) electrolytes and some minor applications like cobalt plating or the pretreatment of goods. It is the most common, easy-to-use, readily available and most economical pH-buffer for electrolytes and considered irreplaceable in several applications. As such boric acid also constitutes an indispensable component in the industry's replacement strategy of the more problematic chromium(VI). The surface treatment branch is highly affected by the substitution pressure through the REACH process which, in some instances, is neither scientifically nor economically feasible.

ZVO has of course participated in the public consultation on the draft recommendation of substances for inclusion in Annex XIV for boric acid (see file attached). In the context of the recent recommendation for the inclusion of boric acid in Annex XIV, ZVO is still collecting and analyzing the most recent scientific risk management data as regards borates in the surface treatment sector. They would be very interested to share their results and insights with you in person and have asked me to see whether you and would perhaps be available for a brief meeting early September.

It would be great if such a meeting could take place in order to exchange the latest results. I am sure, ZVO will be flexible as for the date so please do not hesitate to let me know what date/time would suit you best.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Kind regards

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