



**AGREEMENT OF THE MEMBER STATE COMMITTEE
ON IDENTIFICATION OF
ZIRCONIA ALUMINOSILICATE REFRACTORY CERAMIC FIBRES
AS A SUBSTANCE OF VERY HIGH CONCERN**

**According to Articles 57 and 59 of
Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006¹**

Adopted on 3 December 2009

This agreement concerns

Substance name: Zirconia Aluminosilicate Refractory Ceramic Fibres

EC number: -

CAS number: -

Zirconia Aluminosilicate Refractory Ceramic Fibres are fibres covered by index number 650-017-00-8 in Annex VI, part 3, table 3.2 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, and fulfil the two following conditions:

a) Al_2O_3 , SiO_2 and ZrO_2 are present within the following concentration ranges:

- Al_2O_3 : 35 – 36 % w/w, and
- SiO_2 : 47.5 – 50 % w/w, and
- ZrO_2 : 15 - 17 % w/w,

b) fibres have a length weighted geometric mean diameter less two standard geometric errors of 6 or less micrometres (μm).

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC

Germany presented a proposal in accordance with Article 59(3) and Annex XV of the REACH Regulation (28 August 2009, submission number CC017328-61) on identification of *Zirconia Aluminosilicate Refractory Ceramic Fibres* as a substance of very high concern because of its carcinogenic properties.

The Annex XV dossier was circulated to Member States on 31 August 2009 and the Annex XV report was made available to interested parties on the ECHA website on the same day according to Articles 59(3) and 59(4).

Comments were received by both Member States and interested parties on the proposal.

The dossier was referred to the Member State Committee on 16 November 2009 and was discussed in the meeting of the Committee on 2-4 December 2009.

Agreement of the Member State Committee in accordance with Article 59(8):

***Zirconia Aluminosilicate Refractory Ceramic Fibres* are identified as a substance of very high concern because they fulfil the criteria of Article 57 paragraph (a) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH).**

**UNDERLYING ARGUMENTATION
FOR IDENTIFICATION OF SUBSTANCE OF VERY HIGH CONCERN**

Carcinogenicity:

Zirconia Aluminosilicate Refractory Ceramic Fibres fall within the definition of Refractory Ceramic Fibres, Special Purpose Fibres, [Man-made vitreous (silicate) fibres with random orientation with alkaline oxide and alkali earth oxide (Na₂O+K₂O+CaO+MgO+BaO) content less or equal to 18 % by weight], that is listed under Index number 650-017-00-8 in Annex VI, part 3, table 3.2 (list of harmonised classification and labelling of hazardous substances from Annex I to Directive 67/548/EEC) of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008² as carcinogen category 2³, R49 (May cause cancer by inhalation).

As Note R (1.1.3.1 in Annex VI of Regulation (EC) 1272/2008) is assigned to the classification of Refractory Ceramic Fibres, the classification as a carcinogen need not apply to fibres with a length weighted geometric mean diameter less two standard geometric errors greater than 6 micrometres (µm).

Therefore, classification of Refractory Ceramic Fibres in Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 means that the substance meets the criteria for classification as carcinogen in accordance with Article 57 (a) of REACH⁴.

Reference:

1. Support Document *Zirconia Aluminosilicate Refractory Ceramic Fibres* (Member State Committee, 3 December 2009)

² Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

³ This corresponds to a classification as carcinogen 1B, H350i (May cause cancer by inhalation) in Annex VI, part 3, Table 3.1 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (list of harmonised classification and labelling of hazardous substances).

⁴ This substance is also mentioned in the 1st ATP (Commission Regulation (EC) No 790/2009 of 10 August 2009 amending, for the purposes of its adaptation to technical and scientific progress, Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008) which does not change its classification for carcinogenicity.