

HOT ISSUES

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Materials, Engineering &
Manufacturing Policy Newsletter
Hot Issues

Issue 24: September 2006

Message from the new Director

I am delighted to have been appointed Director of the Materials, Engineering & Manufacturing Policy team (MEMP). I was previously the Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department of Transport where I worked on a wide range of policies including road pricing, climate change, transport security, and the Energy Review. Before this I was Public Sector Director at the defence and security company QinetiQ. The majority of my career has been with the Ministry of Defence on research and procurement policy issues. My PhD was in theoretical quantum electronics.



I take over at the helm of MEMP at an important time. There is the newly established body of Materials UK; The Manufacturing Advisory Service evaluation and Development Board work on the future of the service and the Manufacturing Forum working with others to take forward initiatives across the broad manufacturing agenda, including, the first Manufacturing Day as part of Enterprise Week on 14 November and, if approved, the launch of the National Skills Academy for Manufacturing.

I am looking forward to representing Industry in Whitehall and beyond, as we work together to address the issues impacting on the competitiveness of the materials and engineering sectors.

Through the leadership of the previous Director, the unit has made important progress on productivity and competitiveness. I intend to build on this progress and push on further, not only in those areas I have already highlighted but also in the Cox Review, and business investment in R&D to name just a few.

I look forward to working with you.

Robert Sullivan

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Hot Issues

High Level Group on Energy Environment & Competitiveness

The High Level Group on Energy, Environment and Competitiveness (HLG EE&C) has now met twice (28th Feb and 2nd June), and submitted its first report advising the Commission to undertake actions in the following four areas:

- Functioning of EU electricity and gas markets.
- EU Emissions Trading Scheme
- Competitiveness of energy intensive industries
- Energy efficiency

The HLG EE&C is presently undertaking two work streams, one on 'Long-term energy futures for the European Union', and the second on 'Drivers for investment in innovative technology'. We are working with the Commission and industry to develop robust recommendations in these two fields for the next HLG EE&C meeting (30th October).

Future areas which have been identified for the HLG to consider include; innovation and technology perspectives; removing environmentally harmful subsidies; natural resources and waste; and, better regulation.

The HLG EE&C is a strategic advisory group for the European Commission, as an important output of the European Commission's Industry Policy Communication (October 2005), and forms part of the EU's partnership for jobs and growth.

This does present a good opportunity to look long term and take forward the Better Regulation agenda. Specifically, this is to create the framework to encourage greater investment and technological development, so that competitiveness and environmental improvements (including clean, secure energy) go hand in hand.

The HLG EE&C aims to foster closer coordination between policy and legislative initiatives, and to contribute to creating a more stable and predictable regulatory framework. It will explore ways to unleash the growth potential of basic and intermediate product industries by further integrating competitiveness, energy and environmental policies. The group will also examine the links between industrial, energy and environmental policies to make sure that initiatives in each area are mutually compatible.

In addition to Günter Verheugen (European Commission Vice President responsible for Enterprise and Industry), the High Level Group also contains: Stavros Dimas (European Commissioner for Environment), Neelie Kroes (European Commissioner for Competition), Andris Piebalgs (European Commissioner for Energy), as well as representatives from industry and the civil society.

Alistair Darling, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has been invited to participate as one of the Member State representatives. Simon Edmonds, Deputy Director General of DTI's Business Group, is the UK Lead Official.

For further information, please contact: Faith Quigley (faith.Quigley@dti.gsi.gov.uk),
Telephone: 0207 - 215 - 4121.
The European Commission's web site for this High Level Group is
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/environment/hlg/hlg_en.htm

Energy Supply

The Business Energy Forum met for the second time on 20 September. This is a high-level group jointly chaired by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and Richard Lambert, Director General of the CBI. Its members include representatives from industry bodies including the EEF and the Energy Intensive Users Group. The main focus of the second meeting was improving communications and understanding price volatility.

Ofgem published National Grid's Winter Consultation Report on 21 September, which presents the outcome of the 2006/07 winter consultation process. It contains analysis of the supply and demand backgrounds in the gas and electricity markets under a range of winter weather conditions. The report can be accessed by the weblink below.

Also on 21 September, the Met Office published its latest winter forecast (Dec-Feb). The main message on temperature is that the situation over much of the European Region is now finely balanced with approximately an even chance that the winter will be colder or warmer than average. For the UK, temperatures near the 1971-2000 average are slightly favoured for the winter season as a whole. However, later in the winter season, there is a signal for lower temperatures (relative to average) and an increase in the frequency of cold snaps. Note that an average winter is likely to include some notable cold snaps and snowfalls. For further details on the Met Office forecast please see the weblink below.

As reported in the July edition, the market is responding to the need for more gas supply and storage by developing new infrastructure in time for the coming winter, listed below. These projects could increase GB's gas import capacity by over 100mcm/day for this winter. The utilisation of facilities would however depend on technical and commercial factors.

- The new Langeled pipeline from Norway (first gas planned for October)
- Further expansion of the Belgium-GB Interconnector (completion ahead of schedule and ready to flow from October)
- The new BBL pipeline from the Netherlands to Bacton (first gas planned for December)
- New LNG import project into Teesside (planned for December/January)
- Full availability of the new Humbly Grove storage facility

In addition, the Rough storage facility, which was put out of action by an explosion in February, has been repaired and is due to be completely full by the end of September.

Fuel Switching – Last winter the Environment Agency wrote to PPC permit holders regarding the flexibility to switch. Any operator who wants fuel flexibility next winter, and has not already done so, should contact their EA site inspector now. The UK is a net exporter of Fuel oil and gas oil, the likely replacements to gas for those who fuel switch. However, as you would expect, the oil company logistics are planned in advance. Therefore, companies expecting to use either of these products should order in plenty of time.

The Government is not expecting an emergency situation to occur this winter. However, as part of proper contingency planning the Government has published proposals to update the gas priority users arrangements. The consultation document can be accessed via the weblink below. A workshop was held on 12 September to seek initial views. The deadline for comments **is 20 October 2006**.

The DTI has now set up a Winter Energy Supply webpage on the DTI website. The webpage can be accessed via the weblink below.

For further information, please contact: Terry Martin (terry.martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk),
Weblinks

National Grid Winter 06/07 Consultation Report – www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/TYS/outlook/

Met Office - www.metoffice.com/weather/seasonal/winter2006_7/index.html

Consultation Document on proposals to update the gas priority users arrangements –
<http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file32080.pdf>

DTI Winter Energy Supply webpage – www.dti.gov.uk/energy/winter-supply/page32154.html

Emissions Trading Scheme

The EU Emissions Trading Scheme is a community-wide scheme established for trading allowances to cover the emissions of greenhouse gases from permitted installations. Along with a number of other sectors, steel production is captured by the scheme, as are any combustion plants that have an aggregated thermal input of over 20MW. Phase 1 of the Scheme runs from 2005 to 2007 and Phase 2 from 2008 to 2012.

On 29 June the Government announced a cap of 238 MtCO₂ per year for Phase 2 (for installations that were covered by the scheme in Phase 1), which represents a reduction of 29.3 MtCO₂ against projected business as usual emissions for 2010. Following a consultation in July, the UK has proposed in the National Allocation Plan (NAP) the introduction of a 'de minimis' threshold of 3MW in the calculation of the aggregation rule, and has also revised its interpretation of the ceramics definition. Both these measures will exclude certain small emitters from the scheme.

The NAP was announced on 21 August and submitted to the European Commission for review. Details were sent to those on the Hot Issues circulation list at the time. As in Phase 1, industrial sectors will continue to be allocated at projected business as usual levels, the reductions in allowances being borne by the Large Electricity Producers sector.

The New Entrant Reserve (NER) has been set at 7% of the total number of allowances. Part of this reserve has been ring-fenced for use by Good Quality Combined Heat and Power new entrants. 7% of the allowances have been set aside for auctioning during Phase 2. Any allowances arising from closures and surplus allowances in the NER will be auctioned in addition. Installations may use project credits such as from Clean Development Mechanism or Joint Implementation projects to meet emissions up to 8% of their allocation.

Following the submission of the NAP, the list of installation level allocation was also published for an 8 week consultation period, during which time operators should check that their allocations are correct. Any comments relating to the list should be communicated to Defra by 16 October at the latest (further details can be found via the link below). The Final Allocation Decision will be submitted to the Commission at the end of the year.

Any missing or late entrants to the scheme can apply for free allowances from the late entrant set aside via the Defra website (see link below).

- National Allocation Plan and installation level allocation
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/trading/eu/phase2/phase2nap.htm>
- Consultation on installation level list
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/euets-phase2-install/index.htm>
- Missing or late entrants
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/trading/eu/nap/late-entrants.htm>
- Contact: keith.avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk or faith.quigley@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Global Harmonised System of Classification & Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)

The Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) provide a harmonised basis for globally uniform health and safety information on hazardous chemical substances and mixtures (currently known as preparations). It is a culmination of more than a decade of work, which began with the premise that existing systems should be harmonised in order to develop a single, globally harmonised system to address classification of chemicals, labels and safety data sheets.

It was developed at UN level and at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg 2002, the European Commission, the EU Member States and stakeholders from industry and non-governmental organisations have endorsed the UN recommendation to implement the GHS in domestic law.

The Commission Services DG Enterprise & Industry and DG Environment have drafted a proposal for a Regulation, which would introduce the GHS criteria into Community law. In accordance with the Commission's commitment to better regulation, the Commission Services are undertaking a public consultation on this draft proposal.

The Health and Safety Executive will be co-ordinating the UK response, and would welcome receiving any comments, and copies of replies to the consultation. For further information please contact Steve Mason on telephone 020 7717 6122, or email: Steve.Mason@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Consultation closes: **21 October 2006**

Copies of the Consultation document:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/ghs_consultation_en.htm .

Other Issues

NEW CONSULTATIONS

Fourth Air Quality Daughter Directive

Defra has issued a public consultation on proposals to transpose into UK law the provisions of the fourth Air Quality Daughter Directive. The Consultation also covers proposals to streamline air quality legislation by consolidating the provisions of the existing Air Quality Limit Values Regulations 2003 into the proposed new Air Quality Standards Regulations.

The fourth Daughter Directive relates to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. This consultation paper sets out the actions that the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) proposes to take to implement the necessary measures to meet the UK's obligations under this directive.

Copy of consultation documents

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/air-4daughter2006/index.htm>

Closing date: **24 November 2006**

Consultation on Proposals for Creating a Streamlined Environmental Permitting & Compliance System

Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Environment Agency have launched the second joint consultation on proposals for a streamlined environmental permitting and compliance system.

There are three main parts to this consultation package:

- 1) The Consultation document sets out revised (following analysis of responses to the First consultation) policy proposals for a streamlined and simplified permitting and compliance system and explaining how the new system would work.

- 2) The partial Regulatory Impact Assessment forecasts the costs and benefits associated with the proposals
- 3) The draft Regulations set out the legal framework for the proposed system.

Consultation package is available at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/envpermitprog2/>

Closing Date: **6 December 2006**

Consultation on the Interface between Planning Permissions and Pollution Control Permits

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Defra have issued a joint consultation on how the interface between planning permissions and pollution control permits can be improved. The aims are to secure better delivery and promote community confidence, while removing unnecessary regulatory burdens.

Consultation documents are available:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1502826>

Closing Date: **6 December 2006**

EU Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable use of Natural Resources

The consultation seeks views on the EU Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of natural resources. This is the third Thematic Strategy published by the Commission, following the provisions of the 6th Environmental Action programme (6 EAP)

The objective of the Thematic Strategy is to ensure that the consumption of resources (and their associated impacts) do not exceed the carrying capacity of the environment; and to break the linkages between economic growth and resource use.

Consultation documents are available:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/current.htm>

Closing date : **24 October 2006**

Consultation on changes to the Packaging Regulations (August 2006)

This consultation paper presents proposals by Defra, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government for changes to the current producer responsibility regime for packaging waste as set out in the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2005. These Regulations are referred to as "the 2005 Regulations"

The proposed changes in this paper can be summarised as –

Technical changes – including amending some references in the 2005 Regulations to correctly reflect the policy intention, and making some technical changes. These are discussed in Chapter one;

Changing the Regulations to allow for electronic Packaging Waste Recovery Notes (PRNs) and Packaging Waste Export Recovery Notes (PERNs); this is discussed in Chapter two, along with a proposal to increase Agency fees to enable further development of the National Packaging Waste Database in 2007/2008.

Consultation Document:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/packaging-reg06/index.htm>

Closing Date: **17 November 2006**

Draft Report into Trends in Nitrogen Dioxide

Defra have published a public consultation on the draft report by the Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG) into trends in nitrogen dioxide concentrations.

AQEG provides independent scientific advice on air quality. This report looks at developments in emissions and ambient concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) since its previous report was published in 2004. It aims specifically to investigate why urban concentrations of NO₂ have not declined as expected in recent years despite a significant fall in nitrogen oxides (Nox).

Copy of the consultation documents:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/aqeg-nitrogendioxide/index.htm>

Closing date: **7 November 2006**

The Pension Protection Fund

The consultation document is the second in a series of consultation documents seeking views on two sets of proposed regulations to be made in exercise of powers contained in the Pensions Act 2004 as they apply to the Pension Protection Fund (PPF). This consultation document seeks views on the following draft regulations:

The Pension Protection Fund (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2007;

The Pension Protection Fund (Waiver of Pension Protection Levy and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2007.

The two sets of regulations within the consultation document relate to the implementation of the Pension Protection Fund. Views are sought on whether the draft regulations effectively implement the policy decisions which the Government has taken. It is aimed at employers, pension scheme administrators, trustees and managers, pension scheme members and their representatives.

Consultation Document:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2006/index.asp>

Closing Date: **5 December 2006**

ONGOING CONSULTATIONS, ISSUES COVERED IN PREVIOUS HOT ISSUES – Final reminders

Improving Regulatory Impact Assessments

The Better Regulation executive is currently consulting on proposals to revise the Regulatory Impact Assessment process. It has published 'The Tools to deliver Better Regulation – Revising the Regulatory Impact Assessment: A Consultation'. The proposed revisions aim to increase the transparency of Impact Assessments so that the costs and benefits of new proposals are clearer and updated throughout the policy making cycle.

Closing date: **16 October 2006**

Copies of the consultation documents can be obtained on:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/ria/consultation>

Energy Review Implementation – Nuclear Policy Framework

Having reached the position that nuclear has a future role, the Department has developed a proposal for a policy framework under which developers will be able to make proposals for new nuclear build. We are seeking views on this proposal:

A policy framework (including a nuclear "statement of need") in which national strategic and regulatory issues are most appropriately discussed through processes other than the planning inquiry.

The planning inquiry should focus on the relationship between the proposal and the Local plans, and local environmental impacts. The inquiry should weigh up these local issues alongside the national strategic or regulatory material considerations, which will already have been established. The inquiry should also examine the local benefits of the development and how specific local impacts of the construction and operation of the plant can be minimized.

It is the intention that the framework will be published in a forthcoming White Paper.

Closing date: **31 October 2006**

Copies of the consultation documents can be obtained on:

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/consultations/page32340.html>

Implementing the Directive 2002/96/EC and 2003/108/EC on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment in the United Kingdom (WEEE)

This consultation seeks views of business, manufacturers, retailers, producers and enforcement authorities on draft regulations implementing Directives 2002/96/EC and 2003/108/EC of the European Parliament relating to waste electrical and electronic equipment. This consultation does not seek views on the provisions of the Directive itself but on the UK's proposed interpretation of it.

The WEEE Directive is European environmental legislation. It is one of a small number of European Directives, which implement the principle of "extended producer responsibility". Under this principle producers are required to take responsibility for the environmental impact of their products, especially when they become waste. The WEEE Directive applies this in relation to electrical and electronic equipment (EEE).

The broad aim of the WEEE Directive is to address the environmental impacts of WEEE and to encourage its separate collection and subsequent treatment, reuse recovery, recycling and environmentally sound disposal.

The Directive seeks to improve the environmental performance of all operators involved in the lifecycle of EEE especially those dealing with WEEE. Accordingly sets certain requirements relating to the separate collection of WEEE, standards of its treatment at permitted facilities, and sets targets for its recycling and recovery.

Consultation Closes: **17 October 2006**

Copies of Consultation documents can be obtained at:

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/consultations/page32448.html>

Industry Support

Manufacturing Forum

The Manufacturing Forum organised a Stakeholder Event on 5 September and presented at Manufacturer Live on 20 September to inform stakeholders of the progress of initiatives it is taking forward.

The Manufacturing Forum was formed in December 2004 to ensure the effective evolution of the Government's Manufacturing Strategy (published 2002), and its Action Plan (published 2004) that set out the main actions to be pursued over the next two years. In addition, the Forum is tasked with taking forward initiatives where there is a gap in delivery and also aims to review policy across Government to ensure that it takes account of the needs of manufacturers. It is jointly chaired by DTI's Minister for Industry and the Regions, Margaret Hodge and Kevin Smith, Chief Executive of GKN plc. The remaining membership is made up of senior figures from industry, business representative organisations (such as the CBI and EEF), trade unions, academia and RDAs.

For further details, please refer to the Manufacturing Forum webpages on the DTI website:
<http://www.dti.gov.uk/sectors/manufacturing>

Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS)

The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) aims to address the practical needs of British manufacturers by delivering hands-on advice and assistance from experts in a wide range of manufacturing disciplines.

MAS recently celebrated its fourth birthday and can justly be proud of its achievements to date. Delivered by manufacturers for manufacturers, and funded through the Regional Development Agencies, the service is focused on delivering real bottom-line results for manufacturing firms. In the short time since it was established, MAS has responded to almost 80,000 enquiries and requests for help from manufacturing firms; its experts have carried out 14,000 free, on-site reviews; and through its in-depth project work the service has generated over £200 million of added value for UK manufacturing firms.

For further information about the services offered by MAS, go to the MAS national website www.mas.dti.gov.uk or get in touch with your local MAS Regional Centre direct by calling the MAS helpline number 0845 658 9600.

MATERIALS UK

Materials UK is the new body established by the materials community to take forward the recommendations of the Materials Innovation and Growth Team (Mat IGT), which were published in March this year. The organisation has now been registered as a company limited by guarantee and it is currently in the process of selecting its first Chief Executive Officer. Wyn Jones, Chairman of Alcan UK, chaired the Materials IGT and will continue in this role for Materials UK for the next year.

Five working groups have been established to take ownership of the various strands of the Materials IGT strategy:

- Materials in Energy
- Education and Skills
- Policy and Regulation
- Science and Technology
- Construction

These working groups will report directly to the Executive Board of Materials UK, which will comprise elected directors from materials suppliers, users and representative bodies. DTI, Defra, EPSRC, etc will sit as observers.

Key current areas of work for Materials UK include:

- Development and publication of a Materials Youth Report to raise awareness amongst 11-14 year olds of the materials industry and the career opportunities it provides.
- Establishment of an R&D assets register - Assets Connect - aimed at optimising the UK's research base through better utilisation of its R&D assets.
- Scoping work for a Materials Property Validation Centre.

Materials UK is also working closely with the newly formed Materials Knowledge Transfer Network (Materials KTN) on a number of technology/innovation related areas highlighted for action in the final report of the Materials IGT.

For further information on Materials UK or the work of the Materials Innovation and Growth Team, please see the Materials UK website: <http://www.matuk.co.uk/> or contact Nick Morgan at the Department of Trade and Industry on 020 7215 1105, E-mail: nick.morgan@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Design Council – Cox Review

In the Budget 2005, the Chancellor asked Sir George Cox to conduct a review focusing on how best to ensure that SMEs are able to apply creativity and innovation to improve their performance and productivity.

Sir George Cox published his review of creativity and design in UK business. The *Cox Review of Creativity in Business: building on the UK's strengths* was concerned with ensuring that UK businesses – SMEs and modern manufacturers in particular - apply creativity and design to improve their productivity and performance. The intelligent application of creativity and design allows businesses of all sizes to access new, global markets by increasing the distinctiveness of products and services and competing on the basis of the added value of their unique appeal to consumers.

The recommendations in the review were fully endorsed by the Chancellor and significant progress is now being made to implement them.

In parallel with the Cox review, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has published Economics Paper No. 15, *Creativity, Design and Business Performance*, an economic study of the role of creativity and design in contributing to business performance. It provides evidence of the positive impact creativity can have in improving firms' competitiveness.

Further information can be obtained through the DTI's website: www.dti.gov.uk.
The report of the Cox review can be accessed through HM Treasury's website: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/cox.

To find out about how the recommendations are being implemented, please contact Annie Norgrove on annie.norgrove@dti.gsi.gov.uk

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