



CONNECT

FEICA NEWS 



THE MASS BALANCE APPROACH

The FEICA 2023 Master Class

'Transitioning to sustainable raw materials: the mass balance approach'

The 2023 FEICA Adhesive & Sealant Conference will take place at the PortAventura Convention Centre in Tarragona, Spain, from 13 to 15 September 2023.

This year's Master Class is titled 'Transitioning to sustainable raw materials: the mass balance approach' and will explain why this particular chain-of-custody model is so important for our industry to participate in the shift to more sustainable feedstocks.

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www.feica-conferences.com

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Integrating renewable raw materials in products, including biobased and recycled materials, is a top of mind issue for European industry. Recycled content targets in upcoming regulation, likely starting with packaging, will further accelerate this shift away from fossil materials.

'Transitioning to sustainable raw materials: the mass balance approach' is scheduled on Friday, 15 September from 8:30 to 10:30 AM.

The Introduction to the Master Class will be given by Dr Dennis Bankmann (Independent scientific consultant, Emerging Motif), who will also lead the Q&A session.

Dr Mathias Matner (Head of Sustainability and Advocacy, Coatings and Adhesives, Covestro) will explain mass balancing from the perspective of the raw material producers.

Dr Annett Linemann (Director Technology Outlook & Sustainability - Engineering Adhesives, H.B. Fuller) will explain interest from the point of view of downstream users.

Dr Jan M. Henke (Director, ISCC System) will elaborate on certification and licensing, including where mass balancing is already applied, specifically for adhesives and sealants.

Almost 400 registrations already
Early Bird ends 31
May 2023 !

The FEICA 2023 keynotes



The theme for this year's Business Forum is 'Industry Innovation for Sustainable Development'.

The Forum will feature top keynote speakers and will be followed by a panel discussion on the innovation required for sustainable development. More in next month's issue of CONNECT!

The Breakout sessions

The parallel break-out sessions, on Thursday 14 and Friday 15 September, will cover Business & Market Updates, Sustainable PU Adhesives, Contributions of A&S to Circular Economy, New Building Blocks for Hotmelts, Biobased Approaches for Adhesives and Novel Water-Based Adhesives, to name a few.

The EXPO

The Table Top Exhibition features the latest developments for the adhesive and sealant industry and opens in the afternoon of Wednesday 13 September.

 **FEICA 2023** Tarragona, Spain

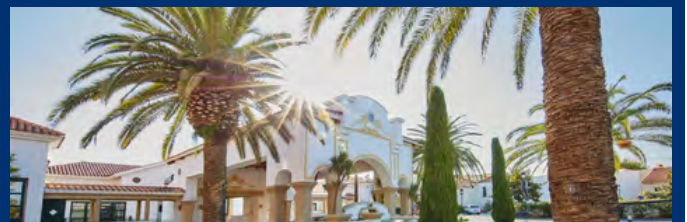
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& Sealant Conference
and EXPO 2023**

13-15 September 2023
PortAventura Convention Centre

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Mass balance value chain of custody method in plastics and construction products

Current state of affairs

To achieve a circular economy for plastics, the use of recycled materials needs a boost. Alongside investments in climate neutral production and supply chains, greater support is needed to prevent waste generation, to reuse plastics and to rapidly scale up mechanical, organic and chemical recycling.

Furthermore, in the case of the construction industry, an increase in recycling and renewability is necessary. Here there is a need to source from other models in order to augment the circularity of construction products while high quality and performance are preserved.

It is incumbent upon the European Commission and Member States, therefore, to adopt in 2023 harmonised, calculating rules for recycled content of plastics as well as of construction products, by means of the mass balance credit method.

Mass balance credit method

What is a mass balance credit method?

Mass balance is a transparent and auditable method to trace a defined material characteristic along the value chain from material suppliers to consumers. This method accords with ISO 22095:2020.

A mass balance chain of custody has already been implemented in areas such as sustainable forest products, biofuel, and fair-trade cocoa and chocolate.

Current approaches to recycling in the areas of plastics and construction products must be augmented by a mass balance credit method if recycling goals, EU Green Deal priorities and the Transition Pathway of the Chemical Industry are to be realised in the next couple of years.

Regarding plastics, though mechanical recycling should continue to be the method of preference because of cost, environmental performance and recycling yields, investments in chemical recycling are necessary.

Such recycling allows the use of plastic waste to produce new chemicals, including plastics. High-quality material is thus available for contact-sensitive packaging (for pharmaceuticals, food and cosmetics), medical devices and construction products.

For such a procedure to be successful and available at scale, European Union harmonised rules for calculating chemically recycled content are necessary.

Furthermore, in order to meet upcoming recycling targets, chemical recycling processes can be viably and efficiently integrated into existing large-scale industrial installations to produce plastics.

The mass balance chain of custody can enable the successful commercialisation and promotion of recycled content from technologies where needed.

With regard to construction products, the use of renewable or recycled raw materials in the chemical production of construction products can save resources and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Not all sectors and value chains, however, can benefit from dedicated (segregated) production systems to meet the customers' demands for recycled or bio-based products. Hence, customers will need to be able to source from other models.

In this case, a mass balance credit chain-of-custody method satisfies the necessity for quickly increasing the supply of more sustainable products with existing at-scale technologies.

The mass balance credit method affords the processing of sustainable raw materials together with fossil raw materials in existing complex chemical production networks.

So, it is possible to speed up the transition to a circular economy while the quality and performance of end products are maintained.

Requirements for the mass balance method

A mass balance method needs to fulfil certain requirements to be transparent, trustworthy and reliable.

(1) It must avoid double counting and foster transparent communication by using trustworthy claims guaranteed by widely recognised third-party certification schemes (e.g., ISSC+ and REDcert). In this way credibility and trust will be engendered throughout the value chain.

(2) There have to be clear statements that calculations are based on the mass balance credit method to make it possible for customers to correctly interpret claims.

(3) A fuel-use exempt model for the allocation of recycled content to output products is needed. For plastics, the legal basis of the Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUPD) can be employed to adopt European Union calculating rules to allow the use of a mass balance credit method. These rules must exhibit clarity and coherence across other pieces of legislation.



A call to action

An urgent need exists for the European Commission to adopt a mass balance chain of custody to calculate chemically recycled content in plastics and construction products.

To meet 2030 recycled content targets, legal certainty is necessary regarding method in order to guarantee time for planning, financing, procuring of permits, and construction of further recycling centers and necessary infrastructure. Each of these elements involves a very time-consuming process.

In the case of plastics, for instance, rules currently being developed for the SUPD implementing act will affect both mechanical and chemical recycling investments in Europe.

Commercial-size chemical recycling investments will need to be made immediately, for example, to reach targets set for 2030 and 2040 in the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) recently proposed.

It is critical, therefore, that policy makers see to the application of a mass balance chain of custody in recycled plastics as soon as possible.

Precedent should be set for policy direction in nonpackaging plastic sectors, the construction sector for one. There are many associations from major market sectors already supporting the use of a mass balance credit method, including FEICA.

You can attend a FEICA Master Class on the Mass Balance Approach at the FEICA 2023.

Go to www.feica-conferences.com.



Mass balance can become a key enabler for the physical transformation of the chemical industry. In addition to transparency and credibility, mass balance certification schemes are critical to ensure an ambitious and feasible change.

To trigger the de-fossilization of local value chains and encourage investments in products and processes based purely on renewable feedstocks, we need to progressively move to a mass balance standard that is site-specific, allows for free attribution only towards reasonable products of a process, and solely considers carbon for the renewable content allocated to products.

Ulla Hüppe
Head of Sustainability
Henkel Adhesive Technologies

FEICA Webinar - Adhesives in the context of paper and board recycling - state of play

FEICA held a webinar 'Adhesives In the context of paper and board recycling – state of play' on 30 March 2023 where adhesive technologies, their chemistry and many other pertinent issues were discussed.

The speakers also highlighted some points of importance regarding testing and evaluation methods to encourage both cooperation within the supply chain and future discussions with stakeholders.

The FEICA presentation and recording are available via the FEICA Information center here:

www.feica.eu/information-center/all-information-centre

Cornerstones for the new EU Construction Products Regulation

FEICA and Deutsche Bauchemie have published a joint paper - 'Impetus for the ongoing discussion process'.



We announced the paper in the last issue of FEICA CONNECT. In this issue, we briefly present you the points of the discussion in the 15 February 2023 version of the paper.

The position paper presents clearly the ongoing developments in the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) and is available via:

www.feica.eu/information-center/all-information-centre.

- The future EU Construction Products Regulation should have the legal user in mind and should be as easy as possible to understand as well as limited to the necessary scope.

- All necessary provisions for construction products should be regulated exclusively in the future CPR. Construction products should be clearly excluded from the scope of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR).
- Following the basic idea of the harmonised zone, harmonised technical specifications should be comprehensive and cover all potential requirements. For example, combinations of several harmonised technical specifications would be contradictory.
- Allowing additional national requirements for harmonised construction products would contradict the basic principle of the harmonised zone and would severely endanger harmonisation and, ultimately, the internal market for construction products. So the proposed derogations must not be extended.
- The rule must remain that the expert bodies of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) provide the content for harmonised technical specifications, with little intervention by the Commission.
- The procedure via the expert groups of the CEN should also apply to the sustainability aspects according to Annex I, Part A, points 1.8 and 2. In addition, the horizontal aspect of environmental sustainability always requires product category-specific concretisations.
- It is reasonable to follow the Commission's proposal and apply Parts B and C of Annex I only if the Commission has established the requirements for a specific product category by means of a delegated act.
- Standardisation activities under the CPR should be supported, optimised and accelerated by clear criteria, predefined procedures and additional control bodies.
- Under the new CPR, the opportunities of digitalisation should be used. The availability of declarations of performance and declarations of conformity in a machine-readable format are a prerequisite.
- It is essential to ensure that confidential and sensitive data, e.g., the technical documentation, are not part of the scope of the data to be reported. Presumably, a Digital Construction Products Passport (DCPP) could be established with lower hurdles and comparable results.
- Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) with all core indicators of EN 15804+A2, in combination with workable application rules, and a uniform EU-software tool are the appropriate basis for a binding declaration of the environmental sustainability of construction products.
- Sustainability requirements should be set at the building level and not at the product level. It is not the delivered product but its installation situation that is decisive.



- Traffic-light labelling for building products provides benefits only in justified individual cases. Implementation according to the scattergun approach could have even negative effects for sustainable construction if the installation situation is not considered.
- Neither the new CPR nor the new Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation should predetermine the upcoming European chemicals legislation. The definition and restriction of 'substances of concern' as well as provisions on 'microplastics' should be regulated within the REACH Regulation to ensure overall coherency.
- The transitional provisions proposed by the Commission, with an approximately 20-year coexistence of the old and the new CPRs, would lead to confusion in practice. Pragmatic approaches to a solution are needed.

Cornerstones for the new EU Construction Products Regulation - Impetus for the ongoing discussion process

Click here to read the FEICA/Deutsche Bauchemie position paper covering ongoing developments in the Construction Products Regulation (CPR).



Safe use of diisocyanates deadline - 80 days left to complete the training!

As of 24 August 2023, training will be required for all professional and industrial users of products with a total monomeric diisocyanate concentration of $> 0.1\%$. A training platform, available in several EU languages, can be accessed via www.safeusediisocyanates.eu.

To facilitate companies to comply with the information provision obligation, FEICA launched a dedicated information webpage 'www.feica.eu/PUinfo' and offers free vouchers for end-users: workers in the construction sector, or workers applying adhesives and sealants in industrial or non-industrial settings.

Please see the FEICA website for more information. www.feica.eu



International Adhesive & Sealant Day launches in 2023

29 September 2023 will be the first International Adhesive & Sealant Day. From then on, this day will be celebrated each year, globally, showcasing adhesives and sealants as enablers of a sustainable future, promoting innovations that include novel solutions to improve material and process sustainability and life cycle performance.

The idea for an 'International Adhesive & Sealant Day' originated at the 2022 World Adhesive and Sealant Conference (WAC 2022) in Chicago, USA. Here, the International Association Heads of FEICA (The Association of the European Adhesive & Sealant Industry), ARAC (Federation of Asian adhesive associations) and ASC (American Adhesive and Sealant Council), unanimously approved a commemorative day on 29 September.

Adhesives and sealants have tremendous significance worldwide. An estimated 45,000 workers are directly employed in the industry, creating 250,000 different products.

They are used in many areas, including construction, transportation, medical products, furniture, healthcare, agriculture and food production, labelling and electronics. In addition, adhesives and sealants are enablers of a sustainable society. Check out the FEICA Good Practice stories here: www.feica.eu/information-center.



Join us in celebrating adhesives and sealants on 29 September!



International Adhesive & Sealant Day
www.internationaladhesiveandsealantday.com
29 September
Think Sustainable Future. Think Adhesives & Sealants.



WAC2026

WORLD ADHESIVE & SEALANT CONFERENCE



16-18 September 2026

The QEII Centre

London, UK



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The FEICA
Media Kit



PU training deadline approaching!

Check out www.feica.eu/PUinfo



FEICA CONNECT is the quarterly newsletter of the Association of the European Adhesives and Sealants industry.

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