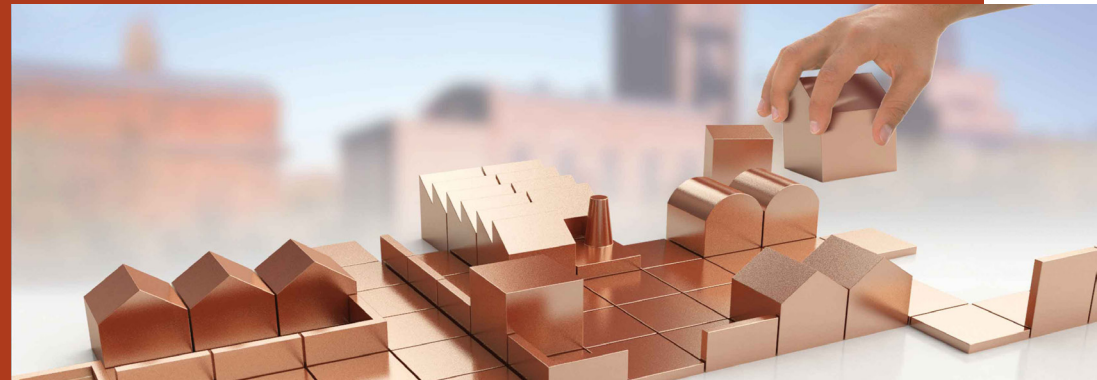


The Copper Voluntary Risk Assessment

Bringing benefits to the copper industry's employees



The Copper Voluntary Risk Assessment

What is it?

- A scientific study initiated by the copper industry to evaluate the possible risk of exposure to copper for man and the environment
- Results agreed by the scientific and EU regulatory community
- The first industry in Europe to have completed a VRA in advance of the REACH registrations

When did this happen?

- Initiated in 2000
- Sent for review by European Commission in 2005
- Review process complete in 2008

Meeting the 'Duty-of-care': Conclusions

The use of copper is in general safe for Europe's environment and the health of its citizens

- The VRA recognised that copper is an essential nutrient for humans as well as living organisms
- WHO: for adults the minimum daily dietary intake is 1 mg, with a maximum threshold of 11 mg



Typical copper intake levels, which range from 0.6 to 2.0 mg/day, indicate more of a risk from copper deficiency

VRA as a competitive tool – saving jobs

Copper competes with a number of other materials in different sectors



Must distinguish itself as the safe and environmentally friendly choice

The VRA...

- builds trust in the material and in the industry
- proves that copper has green credentials - fits very well in a Europe where environmental concern is at its peak
- shows that the industry is prepared to commit itself to continuous improvement
- contributed to the long-term economic stability of the copper industry and to secure job creation and continuity

Safeguarding transparency

Who was involved?

- **Italy:** review country on behalf of the European Commission and the EU Member States
- **Istituto Superiore di Sanità (IT):** overseeing the process, providing guidance, reviewing results & ensuring EU standards compliance
- **Expert consultants:** carried out the bulk of the research
- **Independent scientific peer review panels:** validated the results
- **Industry:** extensive participation in data evaluation and collection
- **European Copper Institute (ECI):** coordinated activities, acting as project manager
- **European Commission's Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risk:** made a final evaluation & agreed with the results

Next steps...

- Copper is **not** a CMR (carcinogenic, mutagenic, reprotox) or a PBT (persistent, bio-accumulative, toxic) material
- A few local issues were identified where potential risks could exist. E.g. adequate risk management measures are needed during the packaging of copper powder and compounds



The copper industry will prepare a risk reduction measurement plan in areas where potential risks are observed

For more
information



European Copper Institute
www.eurocopper.org

Avenue de Tervueren, 168 - box 10 - B-1150 Brussels - Belgium

Tel: +32 2 777 70 70 - Fax: +32 2 777 70 79
eci@eurocopper.org