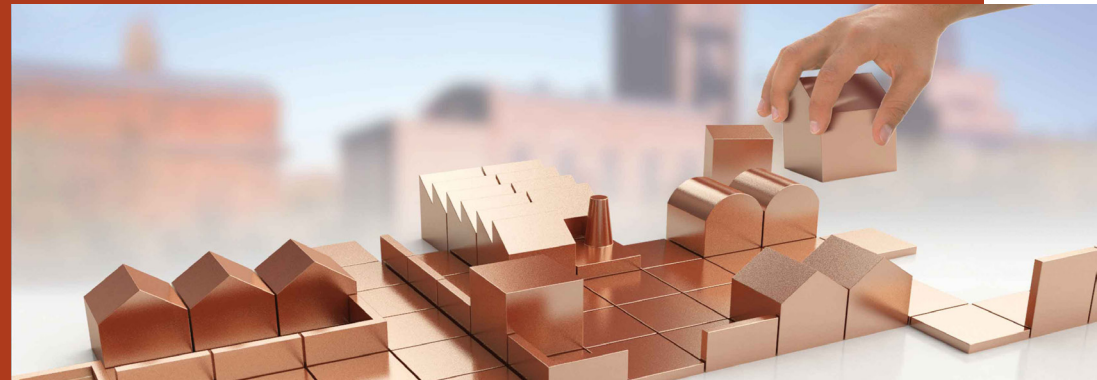


The Copper Voluntary Risk Assessment

Bringing benefits to the copper value chain



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

Benefits of using copper

Copper is:

- Ductile
- Corrosion-resistant
- Malleable
- Eminently recyclable
- Versatile
- Beautiful

Combined with other materials it can further become:

- Hard
- Increased tensile strength
- Still greater resistance to corrosion

The VRA took it a step further:

- It proved that copper is a safe and environmentally friendly choice
- It proved the copper industry is committed to having a pro-active approach in providing high environmental and health standards (€8 million Euro investment so far)
- It proved that the European copper industry is prepared for REACH and other legislative initiatives

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



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

For more
information



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