



The Fertilizer Institute

Nourish, Replenish, Grow

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TFI Product Testing Data Receives Final International Government Approval

TFI-EFMA Data for Nitric Acid Demonstrates Fertilizer Products are Safe

Washington, D.C. – The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) today announced that the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) approved product testing data on nitric acid generated by TFI and the European Fertilizer Manufacturers Association (EFMA) for inclusion into an international database of chemicals. The approval came at an OECD Screening Information Data Sets Initial Assessment Meeting (SIAM) in Paris, France, last week and is the final step in a two-year long regulatory review. Acceptance of the data by the OECD concludes international reviews of the set of five product testing dossiers on 25 fertilizer materials, which was completed in 2003.

“The OECD approval is a resounding success for the fertilizer industry, finalizing seven years worth of efforts to demonstrate with scientific data that fertilizer products are safe,” said TFI President Ford B. West. “TFI took the lead on this important initiative, which benefits the global fertilizer industry by generating scientific data that demonstrates fertilizers are safe when used as intended and pose no harm to industry workers, community members or the environment.”

The United States is the sponsor country for fertilizer products within the OECD process and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) served as the formal presenter for the data at the Paris OECD meeting. TFI was also present to provide technical support on the testing data. Successful adoption by OECD of these fertilizer products also confers regulatory approval through EPA’s High Production Volume (HPV) data challenge, and covers many of the important data points necessary in the current European Union’s Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) program.

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EPA's HPV Challenge program was developed to make publicly available a complete set of baseline health and environmental effects data on HPV chemicals. The data will provide the basis for better and faster decisions on which chemicals present risks and how to eliminate or manage these risks. It is EPA's goal to assure that the public has access to health and environmental effects data for chemicals which are present in their environment.

"TFI has been utilizing this fertilizer product testing data since its development in 2003," said West. "International approval for this safety data is an essential next step given the globalization of the fertilizer industry and the increased efforts on the worldwide regulation of chemicals."

The phosphates and ammonia groups of fertilizer data were reviewed and accepted by OECD in April 2007 and the nitrate and sulfate products were approved in October of 2007.

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The Fertilizer Institute represents the nation's fertilizer industry. Producers, retailers, trading firms and equipment manufacturers which comprise its membership are served by a full time Washington, D.C., staff in various legislative, educational and technical areas as well as with information and public relations programs.