

PRESS RELEASE

Number 11

WACKER's Pyrogenic Silica Successfully Completes REACH Registration

Munich, April 24, 2009 – The Munich-based chemical Group WACKER has successfully concluded registration of its pyrogenic silicas in the "silicon dioxide" substance group according to the REACH regulation on the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction processes for chemical substances. This was announced by the European Chemicals Agency ECHA in mid-March. The Helsinki-located agency confirmed that the registration documents were complete as per REACH. WACKER is thus one of the first companies in the world that are authorized to continue manufacturing, importing and marketing pyrogenic silicas without restriction.

In preregistering its pyrogenic silica with the trade name HDK[®] back in early June 2008, WACKER was already performing the ground-work for its early registration. The REACH registration that has now been completed is based on a comprehensive substance dossier prepared by an industrial consortium in which WACKER has an active part. The dossier contains a wide range of physicochemical and other data on this substance group, including the results of toxicological, epidemiological and ecotoxicological studies especially conducted for this purpose.

WACKER manufactures HDK[®] by the hydrolysis of volatile chlorosilanes in an oxyhydrogen flame. That produces a high-purity amor-

phous silicon dioxide powder, known as pyrogenic silica. Besides high purity, HDK[®] is also characterised by the immense specific surface area of its particles. This property is responsible for the substance's wide range of technologically attractive properties.

The applications of HDK[®] include rheology control of coatings and printing inks, adhesives and sealants. HDK[®] is used in reinforcing silicone elastomers, polishing silicon wafers and as an extremely effective thermal insulating material. It is also a thickener and flow enhancer in personal hygiene products such as toothpaste, and in foods and pharmaceuticals.



HDK[®] pyrogenic silica from WACKER. Among the many applications of this high-purity powder are rheology control, reinforcement of silicone elastomers, silicon wafer polishing and thermal insulation materials (Photo: Wacker Chemie AG)

Note:

You can download this picture at:

<http://www.wacker.com/pressreleases>

For further information, please contact:

Wacker Chemie AG
Media Relations & Information
Florian Degenhart
Tel. +49 89 6279-1601
Fax +49 89 6279-2877
florian.degenhart@wacker.com

The company in brief:

WACKER is a globally active chemical company with some 15,900 employees and annual sales of around €4.3 billion (2008). WACKER has 27 production sites and over 100 sales offices worldwide.

WACKER SILICONES

Silicone fluids, emulsions, rubber and resins; silanes; pyrogenic silicas; thermoplastic silicone elastomers

WACKER POLYMERS

Polyvinyl acetate and vinyl acetate copolymers in the form of dispersible polymer powders, dispersions and solid resins used as binders for construction chemicals, coatings, adhesives, paints, plasters and nonwovens

WACKER FINE CHEMICALS

Fine chemicals, biologics and other biotech products such as cyclodextrins and cysteine

WACKER POLYSILICON

Polysilicon for the semiconductor and photovoltaics industries; solar wafers

Siltronic

Hyperpure silicon wafers and monocrystals for semiconductor devices