



Human and Environmental Risk Assessment  
on ingredients of household cleaning products

## Five years ahead of REACH

The HERA project, a European voluntary initiative, was launched in 1999 to risk assess all important ranges of chemical ingredients in all exposure scenarios for European household cleaning products. Over the last five years, HERA has progressively produced a series of risk assessments. The methodology was developed on three substances in phase 1, and subsequently applied to many more substances in phase 2. The project accomplished its aims when phase 3 extended the work to the remaining functional chemicals.

Risk assessments on more than 250 chemical substances were completed, representing more than 90% of the total tonnage of chemicals used in detergent and household cleaning products in Europe. In the interests of transparency, all HERA risk assessments are published on its website [www.heraproject.com](http://www.heraproject.com)

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<b>Surfactants (anionic, cationic, amphoteric, nonionic)</b> Alkyl Sulphates, LAS, Alcohol Ethoxy Sulphates, Ester Quats, Amine Oxides, Cocamidopropyl betaine		
<b>Perfume Ingredients</b> Polycyclic Musk AHTN and HHCB, Hydroxycitronnellal, Isoeugenol		
<b>Optical Brighteners</b> FWA-5, FWA-1		
<b>Soaps and Antifoams</b> Fatty acid salts		
<b>Zeolites and Ion Exchangers, Builders, Porcessing Aids, Anti-redeposition agents</b> Zeolite A, Zeolite P and -X, Sodium Tripolyphosphate, Alkali Sillicates, Boric Acid, Phosponates, Sodium Carbonate, Citric Acid salts, Sodium Sulphate		
<b>Bleach and Bleach Precursors, Persalts</b> Sodium perborate (mono- and tetrahydrate), Sodium Percarbonate, TAED, Hydrogen Peroxide		
	<b>Enzymes</b> Protease, Amylase, Cellulase, Lipase	
	<b>Solvents, Hydrotopes</b> Isopropanol, Xylene-, Cumene-, Toluene Sulphonates, Diethyleneglycol n-butylether, Propyleneglycol n-butylether	

HERA has developed some unique principles of cooperation between industry partners that, we believe, have lasting value and could serve as a model for other sectors of the chemical industry in the future. HERA published a booklet **'Five years ahead of REACH'** to share its experience and give helpful hints on all aspects of chemical safety assessment.

## ■ External Advisory Panel

In 2001, HERA invited scientists from European universities and other scientific organizations to join its External Advisory Panel (EAP). The EAP reviewed the HERA methodology and the risk assessments posted on the website and thus helped the HERA team in its objective to continuously optimize the quality of its work. The membership of the EAP can be found on the HERA website.

## ■ Stakeholders consultation

Stakeholder input is key for HERA, so regular consultations were organized with representatives from academia, EU institutions, NGOs (consumers, environment) and industry.

*October 2001:* A first workshop reviewed the methodology from a scientific perspective. The approach got general approval from a variety of experts.

*July 2002:* A second workshop examined the relevance of HERA as a potential contribution to the future EU Chemicals Policy. HERA was considered a very good voluntary industry initiative.

*November 2003:* A third workshop reviewed ways to communicate on risks to consumers. Meeting the different needs of different audiences was identified as challenging.

*November 2004:* A fourth workshop sought to build further understanding of how to talk about risk with the public. Collaboration between the many parties involved was considered essential, since there is no "one-size-fits-all".

## ■ Addressing Risk Communication

The HERA project has identified that proper communication around chemical safety and risk is critical both to the consumer and to stakeholders of this industry. It was recognized that comprehensive scientific risk assessments are of no value in building or maintaining consumer confidence on chemicals unless a plan is in place to translate the findings into language that consumers can understand.

As a result, HERA has pioneered a major effort to address communication on chemical safety and risk, through workshops and novel and interactive tools (e.g. Clean House, Safe Home).

The communication approach developed by HERA has revealed some principles for risk communication which could be very useful whenever chemical safety and risk is addressed.

**More information can be found on:  
[www.heraproject.com](http://www.heraproject.com)**

*A joint European initiative between*



[www.aise-net.org](http://www.aise-net.org)



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