

# International Tungsten Industry Association

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11 August 2003

Dr S Masten, Ph.D  
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
P.O. Box 12233  
Research Triangle Park  
North Carolina 27709  
USA

*Recd 8/13/03*

Dear Dr Masten,

With reference to the announcement in the Federal Register (Vol 68. No. 136, 16 July 2003) that the NTP is to undertake toxicological studies on selected tungsten compounds and with reference to the Review of Toxicological Literature on Tungsten, Sodium Tungstate and Tungsten Trioxide submitted to you by Karen Haneke in January 2003, may I draw your attention to the work of this Association.

As background, we are an international trade association, registered under Belgian law, comprising 48 companies producing and consuming (and trading) tungsten, including 12 US companies. You may access our website for a membership list and other information.

One of our principal activities is HSE and, in 1999, we conducted acute toxicity tests on tungsten and sodium tungstate (but not tungsten trioxide).

I am enclosing copies of the 12 laboratory reports for your reference. The results indicated that, in accordance with the EU Directive 93/21/EEC, tungsten was unlikely to require classification whilst sodium tungstate might require classification only in the case of oral toxicity.

I have noted that comments are due by 15 September. We happen to have an HSE Committee meeting on that date and trust that we shall be able to send further comments after that meeting. Please confirm.

In general, we would like to offer you the wealth of expertise on tungsten which is at our disposal and any help we can give to the test programme, notably the selection of materials tested to ensure that these are representative.

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[date]

Should you need a contact in the USA, the co-ordinates of the Chairman of our HSE Committee are:

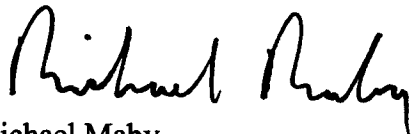
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Please feel free to talk with him.

In the hope that we may co-operate in the future, I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Maby  
Secretary-General

*Enclosures.*

