

Substantial Support Honoured

FECC Award 2008 Presented to Fabrice Delhaise

At the membership meeting of the European Association of Chemical Distributors (FECC) at the end of November, Fabrice Delhaise, Reach Coordinator for Brenntag Europe, received the 2008 FECC Award.

FECC's President Mauro Di Vito presented the award and thanked Delhaise for his involvement in the FECC, in particular for his contribution to the development of a workable solution for the complex matter of communication in the supply chain under Reach. The communication in the supply chain is one of the most important tasks that the chemical distribution sector is facing under Reach and has been a priority for the FECC. CHEManager Europe asked the prize winner about his achievements.

CHEManager Europe: Mr. Delhaise, can you illuminate the workable solution for which you received the FECC award?

F. Delhaise: The solution is looking to streamline the communication in the supply chains under Reach. Customers of chemical manufacturers (and importers) need to make sure that their 'use' will be included in the Reach registration. You can imagine that this implies massive communication with manufacturers.

Now, instead of asking all customers about their uses the

manufacturer selects representative customers to identify and to record the majority of all uses. These results are then made available to all customers of the manufacturer. Based on this documentation (Use Information Sheet) customers can verify if their uses are considered by the manufacturer. If not, they can provide information on the missing uses. Cefic and FECC jointly developed the Use Alignment Process. The European distributors are particularly affected as a substantial part of the communication will pass through them, from suppliers to customers and vice versa.

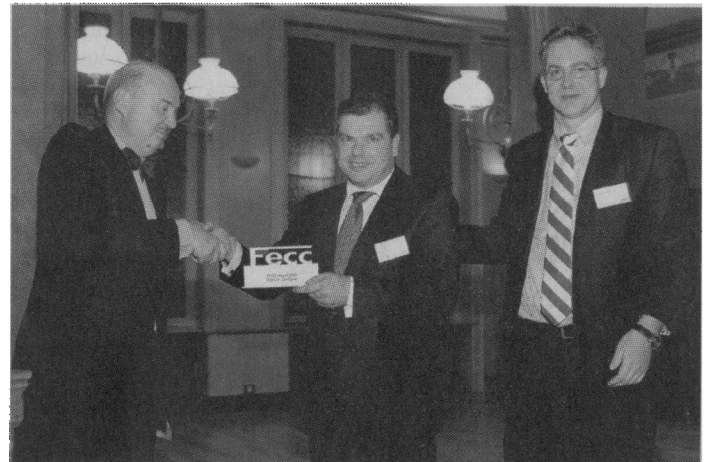
A key element for this process is the Use Descriptor System. There are five categories with predefined, coded options. The Use Descriptor System has been developed under the banner of ECHA. Each member of the supply chain will need to implement the IT requirements as stipulated in the solution. The solution will be officially communicated via the Cefic Reach newsletter "Guidance on Use and ES development and communication". Brenntag fully supports this industry guidance and is already preparing for it.

Customers can prepare themselves in two ways. They can start now with the mapping of their uses according the Use Descriptor System. Additionally,

they can contact their industry association so that uses are interpreted in the same way. In fact, FECC will map the typical uses of distributors, such as filling drums, repacking, etc. This will be shared with all interested parties.

What are future challenges?

F. Delhaise: The Use Descriptor System is currently only available in English and German. It needs to be translated in all languages of the European Community. This is a task for the national authorities. ■



FECC's President Mauro Di Vito (left) presented the award to Brenntag Europe's Reach Coordinator Fabrice Delhaise (middle). Hendrik Abma, Director General FECC (right), said: "Fabrice Delhaise has represented FECC in several activities including involvement with both the European Commission and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). He is one of the most proactive members in the FECC Health Safety and Environment (HSE) Committee, providing valuable input and initiating various activities to the benefit of the entire chemical distribution sector."