

Statement

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Eurima Statement on Recent Media Coverage Relating to the Safety of Mineral Wool Insulation

The European mineral wool insulation industry is committed to ensuring the safe production and use of mineral wool products and complying with all relevant legislation. Over the past 18 months, a small number of websites have published articles and videos attempting to create doubts about the safety of mineral wool insulation. These stories come to factually incorrect conclusions and rely on faulty interpretations of fact and science with the objective of harming the reputation of mineral wool products. It has also come to our attention that some of the individuals behind these articles were involved in running a panel discussion in Brussels on the same topic.

These activities are driven by a group of individuals, where it is unclear if they are acting as paid lobbyists or journalists. Despite repeated efforts by our industry, the authors of the website articles have not responded to requests to correct factually incorrect statements and misleading claims they continue to make.

Users of mineral wool insulation can rely on studies of over 40,000 manufacturing workers over a period of fifty years, in plants throughout Europe and the United States, which underline that there is no increase in respiratory illnesses or cancer due to regular contact with mineral wool products. This result is confirmed by laboratory studies. Reviews of up to a thousand scientific studies have also concluded that mineral wool products are safe when recommended work practices are followed.

Recent peer-reviewed literature published in the journal *Chemical Research in Toxicology* has confirmed that the presence of binders on mineral wool has no measurable effect on the rate of dissolution. This is further evidence supporting the fact that mineral wool fibres are safe to use when used as intended.

Scientific and regulatory authorities the world over are clear. The World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer considers that all mineral wool fibres (glass, rock and slag wools) that are commonly used for thermal and acoustical insulation are considered not classifiable as to carcinogenicity to humans. Equally, the European Union does not classify bio-soluble mineral wool fibres. In Europe, mineral wool fibres, as well as the binder substances (when used) are subject to the world's toughest chemicals regime, the EU's REACH regulation. In the United States, both the US government and the State of California do not consider bio-soluble mineral wool fibres as a possible carcinogen.

The mineral wool industry has an active and long-running programme of product stewardship and continues to invest in science relating to its products, both as fibres and as the finished product. We pro-actively inform users on best installation practices through pictograms on all packaging and Safe Use Instruction Sheets available from each producer.

Mineral wool can moreover be certified under the EUCEB scheme. EUCEB is an initiative of the European Mineral Wool producers that is independently managed by the Belgian Construction Certification Association BCCA. See www.euceb.org for more information on this initiative. You can find out more information on the Health and Safety section of our website: www.eurima.org.