September 2020

ECTA
The Chemical Logistics Association

NEWSLETTER

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SQAS / Operation Clean Sweep (OCS) Progress

Since our last ECTA Newsletter we have been kept informed by both Cefic and PlasticsEurope about the formalization of their cooperation to come to external auditing tools of OCS aspects.

Currently the 4 following modules are envisaged:

- Module 1: OCS Production covering plastics manufacturers and integrated compounders
- Module 2: OCS Master-batching compounding and converting
- Module 3: OCS Transport and Logistics
- Module 4: OCS Recyclers

Obviously, Module 3 will preferably be integrated or closely related to the existing SQAS Modules to avoid double auditing. ECTA, during a separate web-meeting on June 22nd with PlasticsEurope and EuPC (European Plastics Converters) representatives which was also joined by FECC, strongly supported the integrated approach to ensure that not again additional auditing costs and efforts will need to be borne by ECTA members.

Probably an extra revision cycle will be required in 2021 for the current SQAS modules to include all OCS required aspects. ECTA is actively involved in this process as well.

A further warning should be given: If the involved logistics companies are not able to provide evidence that their self-regulation (i.e. use of SQAS) is sufficient to ensure zero pellet loss during their operations, wider legislation will be introduced – probably added by new international standards and separate certification.

ECTA's Responsible Care members have an additional advantage to introduce OCS KPI's in their existing RC Annual Reporting and RC Improvement Plans without much effort. The OCS requirements are now also referred to in the ECTA Responsible Care Commitment Statements as undersigned by the Management of RC Member companies. We invite our RC members to send us their reactions in case they want further Responsible Care advise on implementation in their RC management documentation. With enough response we intend to organize a separate RC webinar in January 2021 dedicated to this matter.

The Responsible Care Training Webinar: A program update

As previously communicated, this year's ECTA RC Workshop will have the format of an RC Training Webinar to be held on October 15th from 13:30 to 16:30 hours. We have chosen to focus on three main subjects:

1. *ECTA News*
   This item includes additional insights of the new ECTA RC 2025 Initiative, expected changes in the annual RC KPI Reporting for 2020, the outcome of an external study of SQAS, 2019 RC Reporting and current ECTA affairs.

2. *SQAS Remote Auditing*
   What are the findings of SQAS remote auditing and will this practice be extended after 2020? Experience of recent pilot audits will be shared during the webinar, and your input can be used to help determine how to proceed with future remote auditing methods.

3. *Emission Calculations for Chemical Logistics*
   SFC/GLEC's Folkert Bloembergen will present his views on the current and future requirements for emission reporting in chemical logistics, to be followed by a representative of EcoTransIT providing a practical example of calculation tools. An ECTA member's representative will provide a real example of currently used practices, after which the 3 speakers will be available for a brief Q&A session.

The RC Training Webinar: The way to actively participate

We want to make clear to our members and other readers of the newsletter that you need to voice your opinions, positions and recommendations to ECTA to make sure that we can take them forward in our work to correctly represent our members' interests. Since the RC Training Webinar has a different structure from the usual annual RC Workshop, the interactive contacts need a more digital approach as well.

And Please Note: Direct communication is only one telephone call away!

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SQAS Remote Auditing: Current Status and Enquiry during the Webinar
(*prepare your questions now please*)

Closely related to the Covid-19 consequences in Europe, the SQAS T&A Committee initiated pilots of remote SQAS audits. Real time assessments were carried out remotely, using several SQAS modules at different logistic companies in different countries. Within the T&A Committee a consensus was for continuing this approach until end of this year.

The matter is further presented and discussed during the RC Training Webinar, with Mr. Michael Bogaert of Transports Vervaeke sharing his experience during the first pilot assessment. Participation in presenting the subject is also invited from the chemical industry and from an assessor.

Participants to ECTA's RC Training Webinar (and readers of this newsletter as well) are invited to forward questions and other input on the subject of SQAS Remote Auditing to ECTA prior to October 15th, if in time we shall use this input during the webinar.
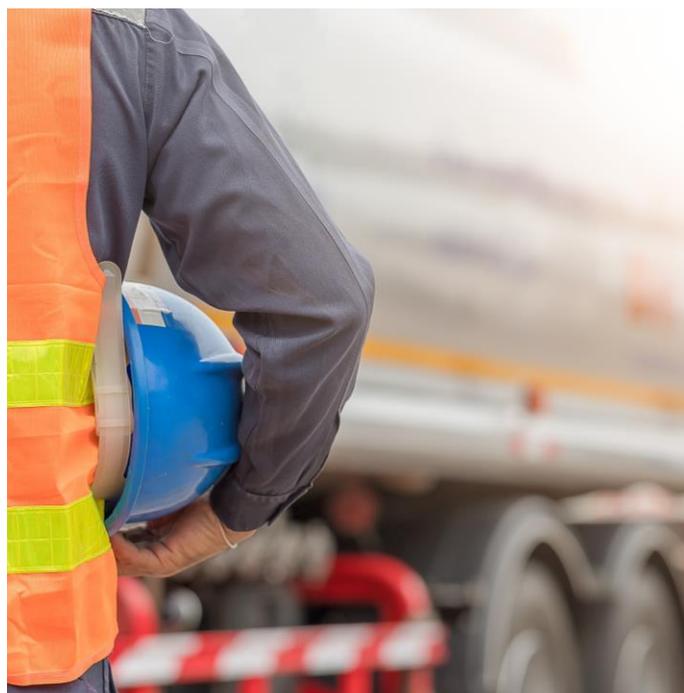
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Driver shortage & driver qualification workgroup

With some delay, the Cefic-ECTA workgroup is proud to announce the publication of the new Cefic-ECTA guideline called "Recommendations to tackle the impact of the driver shortage in the European chemical transport". This publication describes some practical recommendations on what shippers and carriers can do together to solve the structural driver shortage problem while creating an attractive job and future career path for chemical truck drivers. The new document, which can be downloaded here, forms a great basis to tackle safety, health, mobility and sustainability challenges within the future chemical logistics operations.

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ECTA digitalization workgroup

After publication of the ECTA supply chain visibility (SCV) guideline earlier this year, the ECTA digitalization workgroup has been geared up to tackle 2 new digital opportunities within chemical logistics. The first opportunity is related to the creation of a more uniform ETA performance measurement framework amongst service providers and across the multiple modes of transport. The starting point is the supplier milestone flow diagram as described within the ECTA SCV guideline where the aim is to define wo is responsible to provide the ETA information and to monitor ETA's per milestone event across the transport chain. Because the current ETA data quality being exchanged amongst logistics service providers can be improved in terms of common language, responsibility, accuracy, completeness and timeliness, the objective of the workgroup is to describe what's is expected as ETA data quality to feed a common ETA performance measurement framework. An improved ETA data quality with common definitions per milestone event will increase the overall ETA efficiency and interoperability throughout the logistics transport chain and across the service providers. The target of the workgroup is to have the common ETA measurement framework communicated before the end of the year.

The second digital opportunity or challenge being addressed by the ECTA digitalization workgroup is related to electronic freight documents. While digital documents are not new, more recently, the EU published the eFTI guideline on August 20th and wants to encourage the digitalization of freight transport and logistics to further reduce administrative costs, improve enforcement capabilities of competent authorities and enhance the efficiency and sustainability of transport. The ECTA workgroup has set the target to describe a practical ECTA e-freight implementation guideline focused on 2 freight documents, the eCMR and eECD or electronic EFTCO digital cleaning document. This guideline will describe the practical journey of such eCMR - eECD project while sharing some leanings, best practices and challenges that such e-freight document projects typically bring. One of those challenges with e-freight document projects is to start thinking in logistics operational terms without paper documents and this not only from your company perspective but across the logistics chain with your suppliers, customers and governmental officials. This new ECTA guideline on e-freight documents is targeted to be ready before end 2020.

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ECLIC moves forward with eECD, eECO and ePPL

ECLIC vzw, founded by essenscia-Cefic, ECTA and EFTCO back in 2018, is meanwhile offering, the eECD or electronic EFTCO cleaning document for more than 18 months. Gradually the digital cleaning document gets more used between the already more than 40 eECD subscribed companies across Europe (see list of subscribed companies on www.eclic.eu) . Besides, 2 software vendors Lynx Automation and Lucrasoft have started to offer the digital eECD solutions as part of their software solution offerings. More recently, the eECD application was translated into the German language to further facilitate the roll into Germany and closing the loops within the GE-BE-NL chemical cluster. Also, with Covid-19 the digital eECD process gets now even more attention from several European shippers as it creates the path for a new and contactless way of workings at loading/unloading places.

In addition, and as of next month, ECLIC is ready to launch the newly developed electronic Proof Previous Load document or ePPL digital process where no paper documents are being exchanged. Today, a bulk carrier is issuing an "proof previous load" paper document in case no cleaning is required for an equipment. Each carrier has in addition an own format and layout of such document leading to different practices & complexities in terms of interoperability. With the support of ECTA, EFTCO and Cefic-essenscia this ePPL document has been harmonized and is now transformed into an ePPL digital process during Q2-Q3 of this year.

As of October, ECLIC will offer the shippers and carriers the possibility to use this new digital ePPL process as an add-on to the existing digital eECD process and this between carriers and shippers. At the same time, the electronic EFTCO cleaning order or eECO solution will be launched. The eECO or electronic cleaning order is an optional digital document that can be used between carriers and cleaners as a practical add-on to the existing digital eECD process. Companies who have an interest or want to use the eECD, eECO and ePPL digital process can subscribe to the existing eECD Use Case via www.eclic.eu.

A more detailed update of ECLIC and the eECD digitalization efforts can be found in the September ECLIC newsletter which can be find here.

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ECTA Annual Meeting

Due to the exceptional measures linked to COVID-19, the ECTA Board members decided to cancel the event this year.

But we are already working on the next edition in 2021.

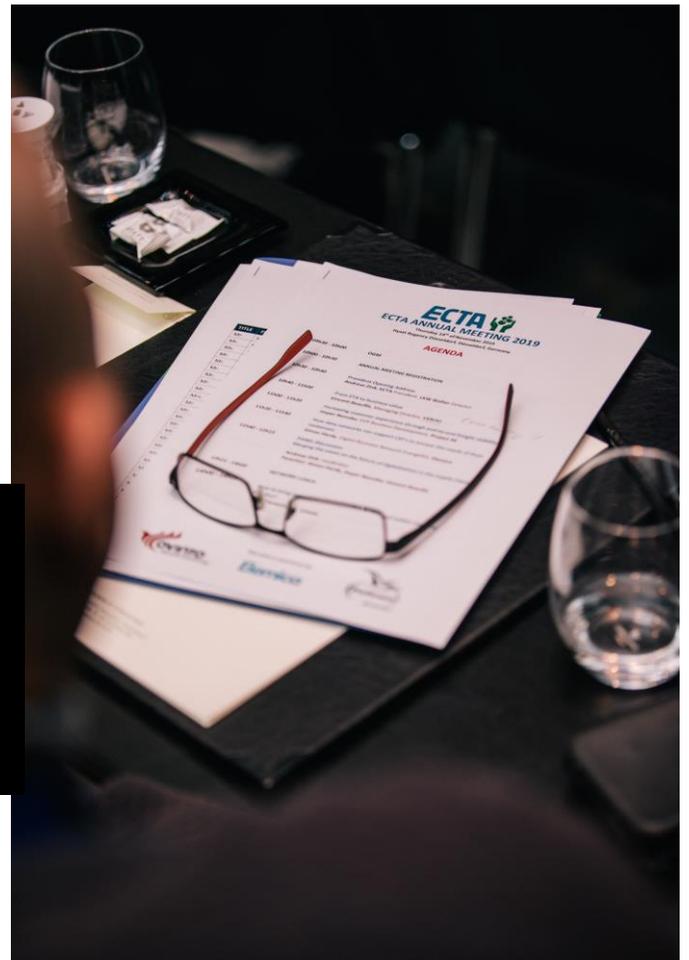More information will be provided later.

Save the date:

ECTA ANNUAL MEETING
18 November 2021 in Düsseldorf

Annual Meeting 2020 cancelled!

ECTA Responsible Care Training Webinar 2020

We are delighted to invite you to our next ECTA Responsible Care Training Webinar **on Thursday 15 October (13:30-16:30).**

Programme: Please click here to see the agenda

Register online Now !