

ECFIA Background and History

ECFIA (The European Trade Association for High Temperature Insulation Wool) was established in Europe in 1979. Since its inception, ECFIA's main remit has been the co-ordination of industry efforts in the area of health and safety. Following in the footsteps of the HTIW Coalition (formerly RCFC) in the USA, ECFIA manages an industry wide Product Stewardship Programme (PSP) focusing on workplace monitoring at both fiber manufacturing and customer facilities, exposure assessments, study of workplace controls and product research.

ECFIA's goals center on health and safety when using fibers and the association aims to provide a sound knowledge of High Temperature Insulating Wools (HTIW) for users, re-processors, distributors, regulators and workers, based on the classic hierarchy of controls (substitution, exposure control, training etc.)

ECFIA also initiates independent scientific research to further the understanding of the environmental and health effects of HTIW. These research projects are based on concerns of stakeholders or identified gaps in scientific knowledge and cover topics such as bio-persistence, presence of crystalline silica in after-service fibers and developing new tools for analysing fiber exposure in the workplace.

ECFIA members work together to develop safe working practices and good occupational health and safety standards in the production and use of HTIW. The ECFIA sponsored CARE program for workplace monitoring, currently in its twentieth year, is recognized and respected by regulators and industry as a world class program. It provides exposure data for a wide range of jobs in a number of downstream industries as well as HTIW manufacturers. This data is used in a number of ways including, providing information to stakeholders on best practices and achievable levels of control, and building robust exposure scenarios for the use of RCF under REACH regulation.

Further information can be found on the ECFIA website here: www.ecfia.eu