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ABSTRACT

EVOLVING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL & TOXICOLOGICAL CONCERNS FOR COLOURANTS

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The history of synthetic colourants is only 150 years old. This is a miniscule period in human civilization. The discovery of “Mauvine” by William Henry Perkin in 1856 brought forth a colourful future for the human race. A wide range of colourants for all applications were progressively synthesized and produced since that day. The Perkin discovery is also acknowledged to be one of the pillars on which the organic chemical industry has rested and grown.

Since the 1970s, environmental concerns in Western Europe and the rest of the Western World forced manufacturers to take a hard look at the polluting effects of the synthetic colourants. Environmental and toxicological concerns became issues of debate shortly thereafter, which led to the first regulations in Europe, restricting the use and sale of products which were environmentally unfriendly and could affect human health. Government and Private Eco labels made their appearance in the 1990s which further restricted use of damaging chemicals in consumer products.

This presentation will cover the different environmental and toxicological parameters relevant to colourants that are currently required to be addressed and adhered to all over the world, especially Europe. Some of these parameters are:

- ⇒ Presence of Banned Amines
- ⇒ Presence of Allergenic Disperse Dyes
- ⇒ Presence of Carcinogenic Dyes
- ⇒ Presence of Heavy Metals
- ⇒ Presence of chemicals such as PCP, Nonylphenol Ethoxylates and Formaldehyde

Issues relating to the analysis, unusual cases and problems & case studies will be presented with specific relevance to colourants.

Currently there is tremendous interest on the use of sustainable organic production techniques for consumer goods, which throws up a new set of requirements for colourants. These requirements will also be briefly discussed, such as those for SKAL & GOTS.

The presentation will strive to address the emerging Ecological and Toxicological concerns for the production and application of colourants.

Ullhas Nimkar is a Chartered Colourist and a M.Sc. in Colour Chemistry from the University of Leeds, UK and is Proprietor of Texanlab, India's premier Textile Testing Laboratory. He is the first Vice President (India) of SDC. He is widely travelled and has attended numerous training programs and seminars on textile testing & environmental issues across the world. He



has been on several technical committees such as the ASTM and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). He is a Hon. Technical Advisor to the Confederation of Indian Apparel Exporters (CIAe). He is a member of the ASTM & the AATCC. He has been conferred a Fellowship of the Society of Dyers & Colourists (FSDC) for his contribution to the Colouration Industry. He is a member of the Governing Council of Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA). He is on the editorial advisory board of COLOURAGE. He lectures extensively on Textile Testing of Quality Parameters with a special emphasis on the export market at various platforms and is often invited to speak at technical seminars and Buyer's Conferences.