

# Fluorine chemical newsletter (2020.1.11-2021.1.17)

Beijing Sino Advanced Chemical Materials Technology Centre

Editor: Xiao Xiao Visualization: Renlu Liu Reviewer: Gan Tang

## US: new trade case on imports of R-125 (pentafluoroethane) from China

On January 12, 2021, Honeywell International filed a petition for the imposition of antidumping and countervailing duties on imports of R-125 (pentafluoroethane) from the People's Republic of China.

The merchandise covered by this investigation is pentafluoroethane (R-125), or its chemical equivalent, regardless of form, type or purity level. R-125 has the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry number of 354-33-6 and the chemical formula C<sub>2</sub>HF<sub>5</sub>. R-125 is classified under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheading 2903.39.2035. Other merchandise subject to the current scope, including the certain blends that are outside the scope of the Blends Order, may be classified under 2903.39.2045 and 3824.78.0020.

## Solvay launches hydrogen platform

Solvay has launched a hydrogen platform that will bring together all the innovative material and chemical solutions the Group has to offer to advance the emerging hydrogen economy. At the heart of the platform is Solvay's membrane technology (ion conducting polymer), which constitutes a necessary component in the process of hydrogen production.

With the industry's broadest range of product forms and compositions, ranging from ionomer membranes, dispersion and other perfluorinated product forms, Solvay's Aquivion® portfolio is a key material for electrical storage and conversion devices such as fuel cells, electrolyzers and flow batteries used in conjunction with zero-emission electricity sources. These innovative materials are based on the Short Side Chain (SSC) copolymer of Tetrafluoroethylene (TFE) and Sulfonyl Fluoride Vinyl Ether (SFVE).

## Refrigerant black market costs Spain €50m

A leading Spanish refrigerant supplier has claimed that illegal refrigerant imports could have cost the Spanish government as much as €50m in lost taxes.

According to Diego García, CEO of Spanish refrigerant supplier Kimikal, more than 4.6Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e of HFCs were illegally imported during 2018 and 2019, making Spain the largest importer of illegal refrigerant gases in Europe. García was speaking at a webinar, organized by the Spanish refrigeration association, AEFYT, and the European HFC refrigerant manufacturers' group, EFCTC.

The imposition of a tax on HFCs by the Spanish government in 2014 in combination with the F-gas phase down and subsequent price rises is said to have made Spain an attractive market for the illegal trade. Investigations by the EFCTC claim that the illegal trade could have represented up to 34Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2018 – around 33% of the legal market. There are concerns that the size of the black market could increase with the new quota reduction this year, if steps are not taken to stop it.

## Marketing information of some key products

Products	RMB/ton	
	Average Weekly Price	Fluctuation
Acid-grade fluorspar powder	2650	50
AHF	9100	-50
Dichloromethane	3555	355
Trichloroethylene	7200	300
Tetrachloroethylene	6920	120
R32	13500	0
R125	28000	1500
R134a	19000	500

## EPA Takes Action to Investigate PFAS Contamination

As part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) extensive efforts to address PFAS, the agency is making new information available about EPA testing that shows PFAS contamination from fluorinated containers.

Through a coordinated effort with both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a pesticide manufacturer, the agency has determined that fluorinated high-density polyethylene (HDPE) containers that are used to store and transport a mosquito control pesticide product contain PFAS compounds that are leaching into the pesticide product.

The affected pesticide manufacturer has voluntarily stopped shipment of any products in fluorinated HDPE containers and is conducting its own testing to confirm EPA results and product stability in unfluorinated containers. EPA will also continue to work closely with the entities involved, and will provide more information as it continues its investigation.

## About ACMI

We are a professional service institution specialized in the research and technology development of advanced chemical material industry, and also one of the utmost authoritative industrial service organizations in the subdividing fields of silicone, fluorine, epoxy resin and C3 in greater China area.

We hope that we can help you succeed in Chinese market.

Contact: Xiao Xiao  
Tel: +86 15201425338  
E-mail: xiaoxiao@hgxccl.org.cn