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CEFS STATEMENT ON THE STATUS OF MOLASSES UNDER REACH - FINAL

Brussels, 29 October 2009

To

All pre-registrants of Molasses (EINECS number 270-698-1)

This statement note is an update of a previous note to all pre-registrants dated 1st July 2009 with the aim of reflecting the final results of the laboratory tests that were still pending.

The producers of sugar from beet (represented by CEFS, the European Sugar Producers Association) have asked a leading European REACH expert body, TNO in the Netherlands, to evaluate the status of molasses as a substance for registration under title II of the REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of December 18, 2006 and its Annexes IV and V as amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 987/2008 of October 8, 2008.

The main report concludes that molasses is a REACH substance, which is expected to be exempt from registration based on the criteria of Annex V, point 8. Although this is a substance generally considered as safe, and for the sake of robustness of TNO report, two types of tests, skin and eye irritation studies, have been carried out to further support the non hazardous status of molasses. The test results clearly show that molasses has not to be classified as irritating to the skin or the eyes. It completes and confirms the TNO report conclusions that beet molasses are exempted from registration.

On the particulars of the report and tests, the TNO study was released on 29 June 2009 and it evaluates from a REACH perspective:

1. The source materials and products of sugar production
2. The production steps of the manufacturing process and the conditions
3. The chemical characterization of molasses

These parameters are compared with the criteria of the REACH Regulation and the exemptions for registration as laid down in Title II and the revised Annexes. The evaluation contains a brief description of the source materials (section 1), followed by an outline of the production process (section 2), the chemical characterization of molasses with a comparison of their occurrence in beets (section 3) and a consideration of the hazard classification of molasses (section 4).

Copies of the dossier may be obtained by interested companies upon request to CEFS (reach@cefs.org). A small contribution to the costs incurred by CEFS in this work will be requested from non-CEFS members (EUR95 plus VAT as applicable) in exchange of a copy of the main report (EUR95 plus VAT as applicable). The cost for the full dossier (main report + three test reports) is set at 150 EUR, plus VAT as applicable.