



MOCRINIS Workshop

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Mineral Oils, the point of view of the paper industry

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A short introduction

- ✓ The mineral oils issue has appeared as being **rather complex** since the beginning, **rational and emotional** aspects have taken turns on the stage
- ✓ So far, after almost three years, it is still marked by a **high level of uncertainty**
- ✓ This is generally shared by all stakeholders, **including EFSA** (see following slides)

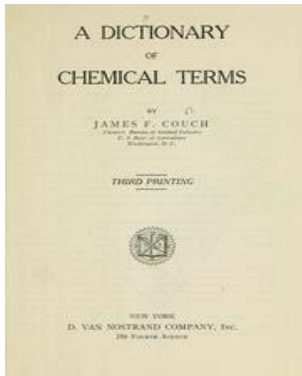


Breaking NEW

The Paper Recycling Rate in Europe has reached in 2012 **the impressive level of 71,7%**, according to the annual monitoring report of the European Recovered Paper Council published two weeks ago.

This **1.5 higher than in 1998** and keeps growing.





Uncertainty: a few examples

Definitions of mineral oils (MOSH/MOAH/POSH/NOSH...)

✓ Sources: many and different, endogenous, and exogenous processes and materials

.....“recycled papers”.....



Analytical method

✓ Instruments/techniques – personnel’s handling - interpretation of the results: may be affected by operator’s skill

Toxicology

✓ Lack of toxicological information



The EFSA Scientific Opinion at a glance

” the exposure to MOAH (and) to MOSH is of potential concern”

“The CONTAM Panel considered the impact of the **uncertainties** on the risk assessment of human exposure to MOH and concluded that **overall uncertainty is substantial**” [quote from page 138](#)

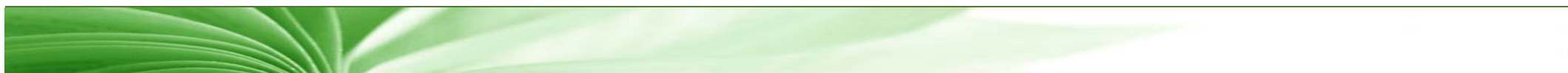
[EFSA Journal 2012;10\(6\):2704](#)



The EFSA Scientific Opinion at a glance



Many different sources identified
(but RP at the center of the attention)





The position of the paper industry

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- Paper and board has a long and successful history of safe use in the food industry in a wide range of applications
 - Keep providing safe and functionally effective materials
 - Promote sustainability – recycling
 - Wants this and other matters to be scientifically investigated, in cooperation with all stakeholders



A very actual case history

A paradigm



Adventskalender

- German consumer foundation Stiftung Warentest published test results according to which most chocolates in 24 tested advent calendars available in Germany contained mineral oil hydrocarbon residues.
- **Stiftung Warentest also mentions recycled cardboard packaging as source of that the mineral oil hydrocarbons; this has been shown and confirmed to be an erroneous conclusion**

A very actual case history

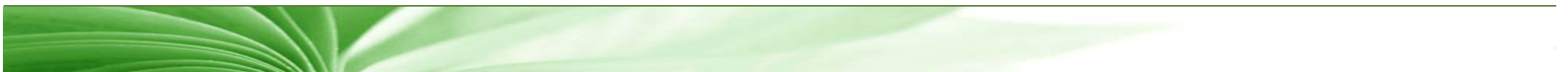
Facts

- ✓ 24 calenders tested: 23 of them were made of virgin fibres
- ✓ different inks (some were “MO free”) have been used
- ✓ mineral oils found in the very large majority of samples
- ✓ details on analytical method not known
- ✓ the findings reported by Stiftung Warentest are based on the assumption that the source is recycled cardboard
- ✓ this conclusion seems to be affected by prejudices



Final remarks

- the lack of scientific background causes **uncertainty**
 - uncertainty may lead to **hasty** and **wrong conclusions**, specially if it is accompanied by **prejudices**
 - **prejudices do not help in solving the problem, they can even give raise to more problems**
 - need to investigate more under **scientific and R&D** point of views:
 - we trust that this Workshop will help
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Thank you!



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