



# Information on the rewritten material safety data sheets (MSDS), the new classification for metal powders and their new labelling system

## What will change as from 1 January 2005?

The new European directive 2001/58/CE in the field of hygiene and safety for products on the market invites us to examine this question in detail. Eurotungstene wants to accompany the process by looking ahead, and it is carrying out a campaign to provide information for the users of its products.

With this in mind, eurotungstene undertook a major series of tests in 2004 to determine the physico-chemical characteristics of its products. New toxicological data were integrated in the work to rewrite all the material safety data sheets (MSDS) for the powders in the catalogue.

Of course, it is not the technical characteristics of the products that have changed, but their regulatory classification for transport and storage.

This information will thus cover three criteria: **flammability / toxicity / explosiveness.**



## Changes as from 1 January 2005

*Previous and new classification of the product families concerning the three criteria set out above.*

Family	Flammability		Toxicity		Explosiveness	
	Today	From 1 January 2005	Today	From 1 January 2005	Today	From 1 January 2005
Tungsten	/	for 12/27 references	/	/	/	St1
Cobalt	/	for 12/19 references			/	St1
Tungsten carbide	/	for 3/18 references	/	/	/	St1
Tungsten + cobalt	/	for 1/1 reference			/	St1
Mixed tungsten carbide / cobalt	/	for 5/12 references			/	St1
NEXT® premixed powders	/	for 8/19 references			/	St1
NEXT®	/	for 3/8 references			/	St1
Rhenium	/	for 6/6 references	/	/	/	St1

- A** Flammability: certain powders (40% of the references) are classified by the tests as being easily flammable (A10 flammability of solids). A pictogram will be placed on the drums to warn of this.
- B** Toxicity of WC/Co: these are the only products whose classification changes (from harmful to toxic). The changes will be marked on the drums using a pictogram that refers to the carcinogenic nature of the mixtures if they are inhaled.
- St1** **C** Explosiveness: all the powders except AW2220 and CoH are henceforth classified at level 1 (the lowest of the three levels) on the scale of explosiveness.

