

NEWS RELEASE

NEW GENERATION NON-TCMTB LEATHER FUNGICIDE

Singapore (22 December 2006) - Zenith Industrial Chemicals (formerly ZI-CHEM) has developed a “new generation” fungicide for the leather industry. The new fungicide is 100% TCMTB-free and offers several important benefits for tanners.

TCMTB fungicides, such as Busan[®] 30L, became the worldwide standard for use in wet blue preservation starting around the mid seventies, when the use of phenolics became restricted in many countries. While TCMTB is definitely a potent fungicide, it does possess certain drawbacks. Furthermore, the industry also realizes that there may be further restrictions on the use of fungicides. Consequently, chemical companies have long been attempting to develop a “new generation” fungicide as an alternative to TCMTB.

The new fungicide product developed by ZENITH, which is designated Fungicide 399, is based on state-of-the-art technology. It is a water-clear liquid product. Unlike TCMTB formulations, Fungicide 399 does not have a strong irritating odor and is user-friendly in terms of its near odorless character for tannery staff who may work in proximity of open containers of the chemical.

Full-scale tannery trials and stringent long-term fungal resistance studies have shown Fungicide 399 possesses a broader, more effective spectrum of activity than TCMTB formulations. Fungicide 399 was also shown to be very effective in controlling mold growth on split wet blue surfaces, even when using thick substance hides. This is often a problem with many fungicides that do not penetrate well into the full hide during processing, then leaving the split surfaces vulnerable to fungal attack.

Fungicide 399 is now commercially available from ZENITH. The company offers free fungicidal testing using its ASTM tropical chamber method.

ZENITH is specialized in the development, production, marketing and servicing of specialty chemical products for use in industrial applications such as in the pulp and paper industry and the leather tanning industry.

For more information, please contact Ms. Eunice Au at Zenith Industrial Chemicals. Telephone: +65 6273 2248. Email: eunice_au@zenith-industrial-chemicals.com.