

PRESS RELEASE



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NCEC announces new partnership for chemical emergency response service in China

- **UK's National Chemical Emergency Centre (NCEC) – part of Ricardo-AEA – announces new partnership agreement with China's National Registration Centre for Chemicals (NRCC)**
- **Agreement facilitates collaboration to provide a unique and truly global telephone emergency response service**

The new service – which goes live on 1st December – will be of particular assistance to companies operating in China and needing to comply with the country's regulations on the safe management of hazardous chemicals. These regulations have presented a significant challenge to manufacturers and importers of chemicals in China. In particular, those registering hazardous chemicals with the State Administration for Work Safety (SAWS) have begun to face a “two strikes” policy, under which emergency response systems judged to be non-compliant have resulted in companies not being allowed to trade their products in China. This partnership agreement provides security to companies operating in China that they can be certain of compliance with Chinese regulations. As such NCEC can now provide the only true global telephone emergency response service, all via one contract.

“We are pleased to have made an agreement with NCEC for joint operation of a global emergency telephone number service,” commented NRCC's emergency response director Yuan Jiwu. “We have worked closely with NCEC since 2008 to share



knowledge and expertise in the operation of a national emergency response centre and we see this partnership as a positive and natural step in our continuing co-operation”.

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Until now, chemical companies operating in China have been required either to implement their own 24 hour expert advice line on a fixed domestic Chinese phone line, or to appoint an accredited agent such as NRCC-SAWS to provide this service on their behalf. The historic partnership between NCEC and NRCC now allows multinational chemical companies to access a professionally managed, expert monitored 24/7 emergency telephone number service operated by Ricardo-AEA’s NCEC.

“NCEC has been providing its global emergency response service in China for the last 15 years,” commented Dan Haggarty, NCEC development manager. “This latest development keeps us at the leading edge of global emergency response and allows chemical companies to manage and control their outsourced service via a single global contract. It provides access to the expertise of both NCEC and NRCC, avoiding costly duplication of effort in managing two service providers and guaranteeing compliance with global emergency response regulations.”

The risks of chemical companies continuing to operate in China without adequate compliance measures in place was further emphasized by Nathan Chen, director of NCEC’s service partner in China, Reach24h: “Chinese authorities are continuing to implement regulations for the safe management of chemicals and are continuing to develop their enforcement activities. The risk for chemical companies not complying with the regulation is continuing to grow. Not only can companies be prevented from trading in China, but they can suffer failure of registration or delayed shipments hindering normal business activities. The partnership between NCEC and NRCC is an ideal mechanism for companies seeking an affordable and easy route to compliance.”

The new partnership agreement with NRCC is a further demonstration of the international expansion of Ricardo-AEA, as well as of its highly successful NCEC operation – which has recently celebrated its fortieth year of operation.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

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Ricardo-AEA is a new operating division of Ricardo plc comprising the former business of AEA Europe. The consultancy has an exceptional breadth of capability in energy and climate change, air quality, sustainable transport, waste management, resource efficiency and chemical risk. With around 400 staff based in the UK, the company's capabilities are underpinned by the experience gained from supporting governments and business-leaders around the world for over 40 years. For more information, visit www.ricardo-aea.com.

The National Chemical Emergency Centre (NCEC) is part of Ricardo-AEA and provides a UK based, global telephone chemical emergency response centre. Endorsed by UK government and supported by industry, NCEC has provided remote telephone-based advice during chemical emergencies since 1973. The organization now has an international customer base including hundreds of companies in the chemical supply chain and around 50 percent of the world's biggest 100 chemical manufacturers. NCEC receives around 4,500 calls per year in all world languages and employs a team of specialist chemical emergency responders at its Oxfordshire headquarters. For more information, visit <http://the-ncec.com/>.

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