

# The Voluntary Emissions Control Action Programme



# Managing Emissions of Polymer Additives



## WHAT IS VECAP ?

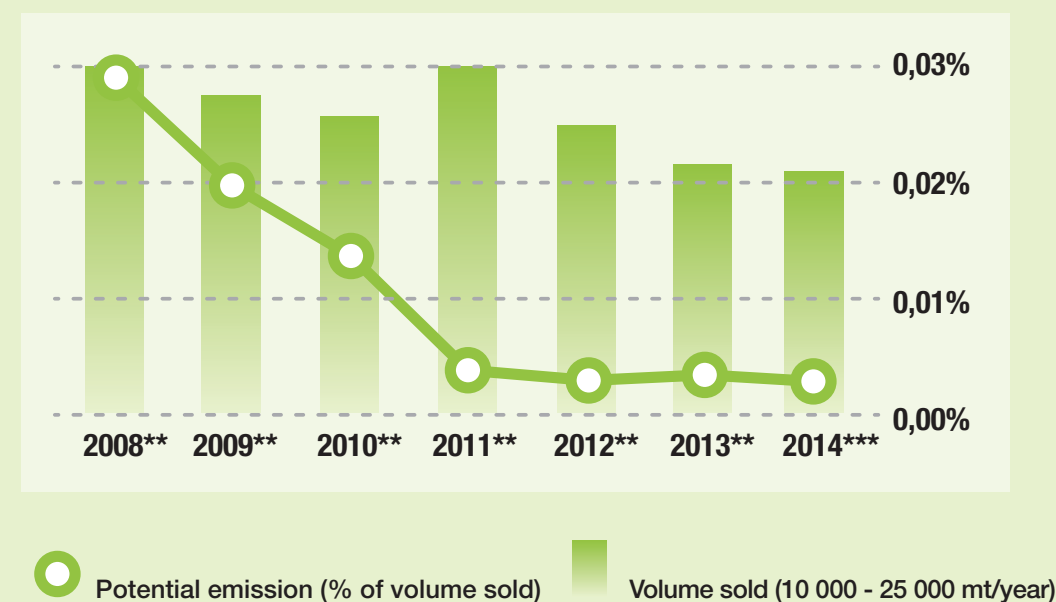
The Voluntary Emissions Control Action Programme (VECAP)<sup>1</sup> is a successful product stewardship scheme, championed by the three main producers of brominated flame retardants<sup>2</sup> (BFRs), to ensure a responsible management of chemicals throughout the value chain. This pioneering initiative, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is run by the European Flame Retardants Association (EFRA) under the principles of Responsible Care<sup>®</sup>.

1. VECAP : [www.vecap.info](http://www.vecap.info)
2. Albermarle, Chemtura, ICL-IP

**VECAP originated from the industry's voluntary commitment to take responsibility for the handling of chemicals throughout the value chain.** Through simple-to-implement best practices, VECAP ensures that chemicals are responsibly managed in all stages of the value chain, from manufacturers to downstream users. Since 2004 the programme has been expanded and European reporting now includes flame retardants TBBPA, Deca-BDE, HBCD and EBP.

The 2014 European Progress Report celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the programme. The report shows the success in reducing potential emissions of BFRs over the years. The initiative is now a globally recognised product stewardship scheme that enables flame retardant producers and users to go beyond regulatory requirements. The VECAP team is committed to continuous improvement of the programme with the development of new best practice recommendations based on experience and evolution in manufacturing processes.

## SUMMARY OF BFR\* POTENTIAL EMISSIONS REDUCTION IN EUROPE



\* Deca-BDE, HBCD, TBBPA, EBP, \*\* Year reported, \*\*\* 2014 also includes sales of EBP  
Figure1. The decline in potential emissions (% of volume sold) of BFRs in Europe



## HOW DOES VECAP WORK ?

VECAP aims to reduce potential emissions of BFRs by raising awareness of responsible chemicals management and by promoting environmental best practices throughout the value chain.

The programme is founded on the principle of continuous improvement, reviewing what happens in practice through an annual survey. Potential emissions are calculated using the survey data, which are consolidated by the European Chemical Industry Council's (Cefic) Statistical Services<sup>3</sup>.

Concrete and practical support is a central pillar of the programme. Informative material and guidelines are provided by the product stewardship team to users to ensure that all recommended best practices are implemented. VECAP encourages users to adopt the industry's Code of Good Practices and the Best Available Techniques (BAT) guidance documents.

In 2009, an independent certification scheme was launched based on the principles of ISO 9000/14001, with audits carried out by third party auditors. The process is designed to be simple to implement to encourage new users' participation. The VECAP certification allows producers and users to prove their commitment and successful implementation of best practices via an independent periodical audit.

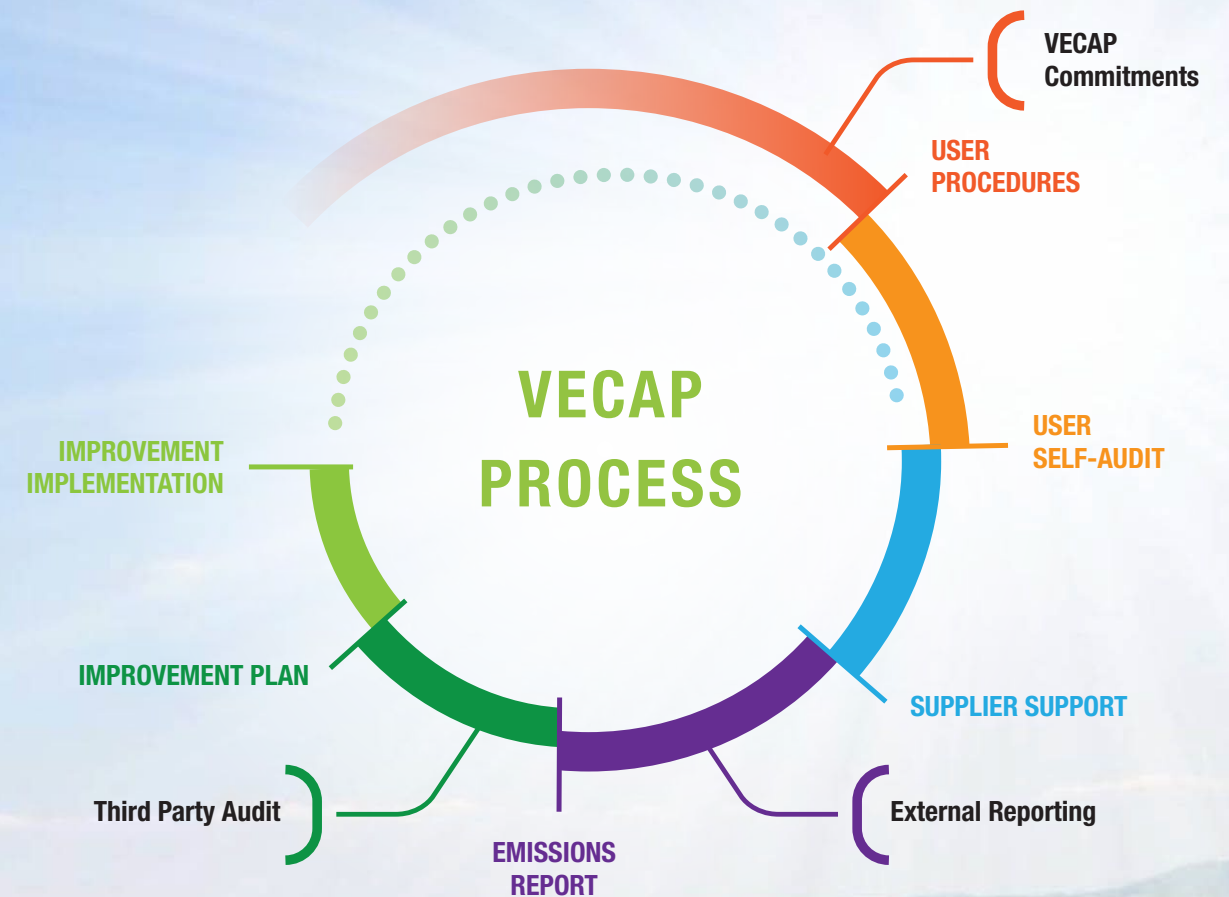
## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ACHIVEMENTS

**The 2014 European Progress Report celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the programme was first launched.** The report shows significant success in reducing potential emissions of BFRs over the years.

A decade after its launch, VECAP is an integral part of responsible environmental management for all companies involved. Participation in the scheme is high and the programme continues to improve based on experience and to expand to new regions.

In the past 10 years, VECAP has grown into a truly global programme. It is now operating in Europe, North America and Canada, and it is being promoted in Mexico, China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. As of today, the programme boasts 180 participating downstream users and more than 100 professionals involved in the operating regions including sales operators, trained distributors, customers and industry representatives.

<sup>3</sup>. European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) is the forum and voice of the chemical industry in Europe, [www.cefic.org](http://www.cefic.org)



## 10 YEARS OF VECAP AT A GLANCE

- Operating in Europe, North America and Canada, as well as being promoted in Mexico, China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan;
- More than 100 professionals involved in the operating regions including sales operators, trained distributors, customers and industry representatives;
- 180 downstream user sites involved;
- Training schemes and communication material available in 13 languages;
- 11 certified sites worldwide;
- Major reduction of potential emissions of brominated flame retardants reported since 2008.



## 2014 SURVEY RESULTS

The 2014 report shows that potential emissions to land, water and air of the four substances covered by the programme (TBBPA, Deca-BDE, HBCD and EBP) have significantly decreased since the beginning of the programme; 2014 was also the second year of EBP reporting, allowing for comparison of data.

The survey shows once again a high participation rate for EBP and for TBBPA with a significant 35% drop for potential emissions to land from EBP as well as reported TBBPA potential emissions at default levels for the fourth consecutive year.

The industry's commitment to cover responsibly the disposal of packaging waste has also led to the responsible management of all surveyed TBBPA, Deca-BDE and HBCD packaging.

EFRA product stewardship is working hard to ensure that EBP users apply all recommended VECAP best practices to shift the percentage of packaging waste responsibly managed from 97% to 100%.

While both Deca-BDE and HBCD are expected to be phased out in Europe in the near future, EFRA members remain committed to implementing VECAP best practices as long as the sales continue.

## VECAP AND THE EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR CSR

The 2001 Green Paper of the European Commission promoting a European Framework for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) defines CSR as a 'concept whereby companies decide voluntarily to contribute to a better society and a cleaner environment'<sup>4</sup>.

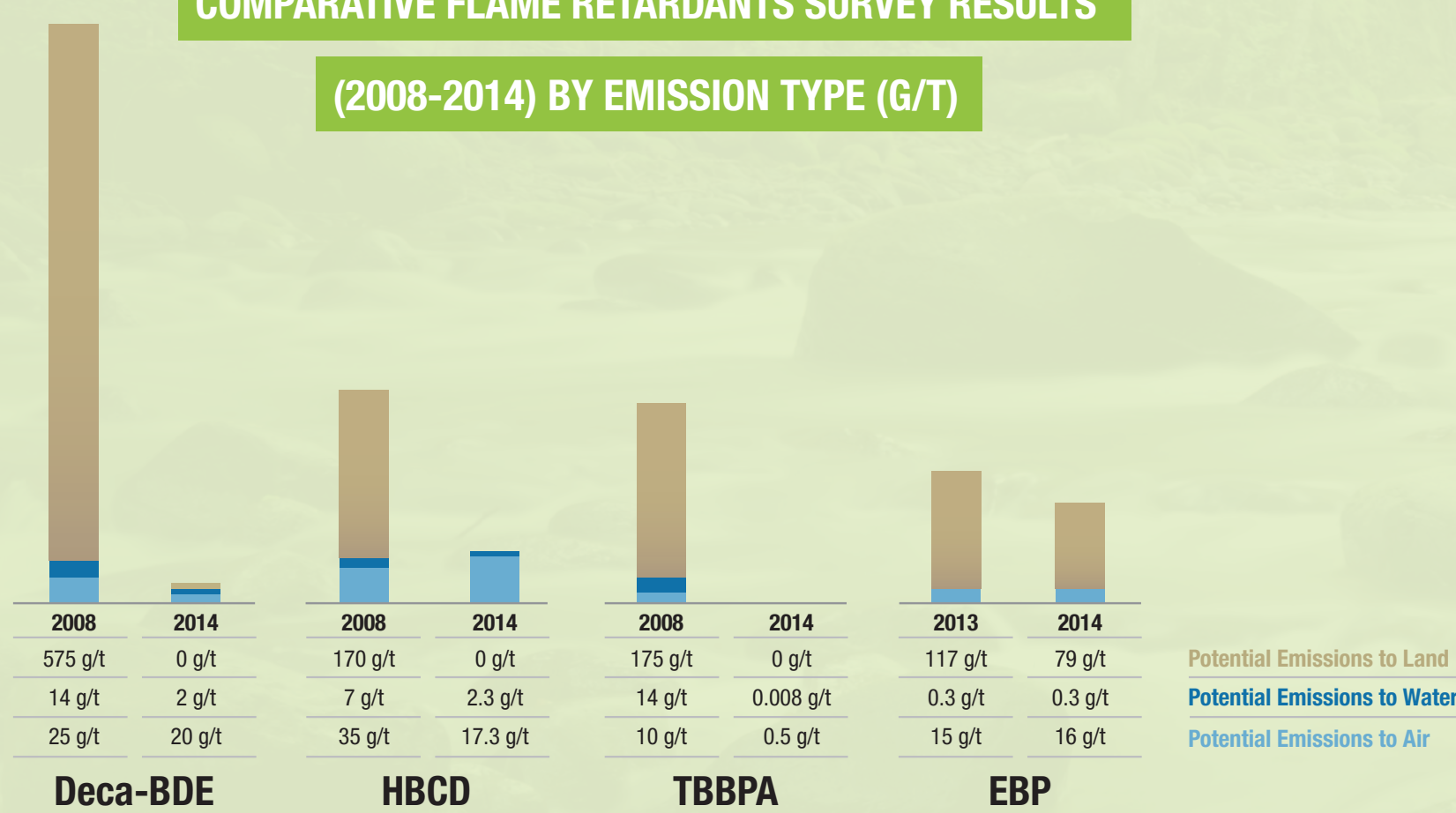
The 2011 European Union (EU) strategy 2011-2014 for CSR renewed the European commitment within the broader Europe 2020 strategy for growth<sup>5</sup>.

Ten years after the launch of the VECAP programme, greening production and the value chain is becoming a growing priority for all industry sectors. Through VECAP, the brominated flame retardants industry reiterates its voluntary commitment to the environmentally sound management of chemicals and the programme serves as evidence of the industry's call for a solid CSR strategy

4. COM (2001) 366: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52001DC0366&from=EN>

5. COM (2011) 681: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52011DC0681&from=EN>

### COMPARATIVE FLAME RETARDANTS SURVEY RESULTS (2008-2014) BY EMISSION TYPE (G/T)

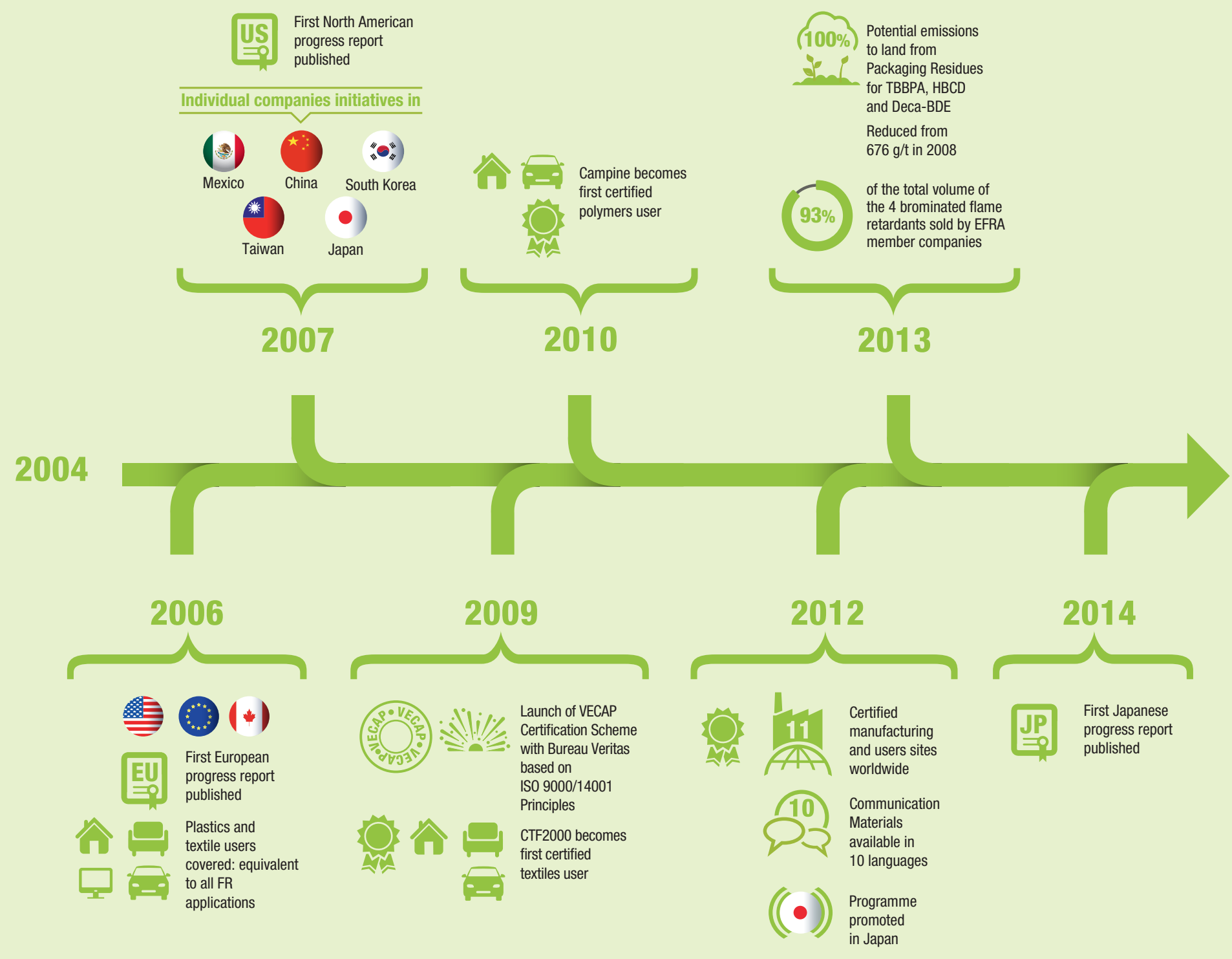






# ANNIVERSARY

## VOLUNTARY EMISSIONS CONTROL ACTION PROGRAMME



4 brominated flame retardants reported



All value chains: FR users covering applications in transport, construction, electronics and textiles

180

Total downstream user sites involved



Company sizes: from 1 to 1000+ employees



100 people directly involved in the programme