



News Release

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30 May 2008

BOC/INEOS MERGER

Competition Commission invites evidence

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has referred the proposed acquisition by BOC of Ineos' chlorine packaging and distribution business to the Competition Commission (CC).

The CC has been asked to decide whether the acquisition may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the UK for goods or services, including that in which packaged chlorine is supplied in the UK. One use of such chlorine is by the UK water industry for water purification.

The CC is expected to report by 12 November 2008.

The CC would like to hear from all interested parties, in writing, by 19 June 2008. To submit evidence, please email Michelle.Horan-Cashmore@cc.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

Michelle Horan-Cashmore
Inquiry Manager
Competition Commission
Victoria House
Southampton Row
LONDON
WC1B 4AD

Notes for editors

1. The CC is an independent public body, which carries out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries.
2. The Enterprise Act 2002 empowers the OFT to refer to the CC completed or proposed mergers for investigation and report which create or enhance a 25 per cent share of supply in the UK (or a substantial part thereof) or where the UK turnover associated with the enterprise being acquired is over £70 million.
3. The CC has a 24-week period in which it is required to publish its report, which may be extended by no more than eight weeks if it considers that there are special reasons why the report cannot be published within that period.

4. Further information on this inquiry, including the Terms of Reference and other key documents, as well as on the CC and its procedures, including its policy on the provision of information and the disclosure of evidence, can be obtained from the CC website at: www.competition-commission.org.uk.

5. Enquiries should be directed to Rory Taylor on 020 7271 0242 (email rory.taylor@cc.gsi.gov.uk).