

**REFERENCE RELATING TO THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION
BY TAMINCO NV OF THE EUROPEAN METHYLAMINE AND DERIVATIVES
BUSINESS OF AIR PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS Inc**

**Notice of provisional findings made under Rule 10.3
of the Competition Commission Rules of Procedure**

1. On 16 July 2004, the Office of Fair Trading, in exercise of its duty under section 33(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act), referred to the Competition Commission (CC) the proposed acquisition by Taminco NV of the European methylamine and derivatives business of Air Products and Chemicals Inc.

Provisional findings

2. The CC inquiry group (the Group) appointed to consider this reference have made the following provisional findings on the statutory questions it has to decide pursuant to section 36(1) of the Act:
 - (a) arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and
 - (b) the creation of that situation is not expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any of the markets in the United Kingdom for methylamines or their derivatives.
3. The Group's reasons are set out in full in the provisional findings report, which is attached to this notice, and are summarized in the summary of the provisional findings report (see note below).

The next steps

4. Taminco NV and Air Products and Chemicals Inc are now invited to provide the Group with their reasons in writing as to why these provisional findings should not become final (or, as the case may be, should be varied).
5. These reasons should be received by the Group no later than Friday 12 November 2004.
6. The Group will have regard to any such reasons in making their final decisions on the statutory questions and actions.

Christopher Clarke
Group Chairman
21 October 2004

Note: A copy of this notice and the summary of the provisional findings report will be placed on the CC web site on Friday 22 October. The CC proposes to publish the provisional findings report on its web site by Thursday 28 October. The published version of the provisional findings report will not contain any information which the Group consider should be excluded from the report, having regard to the three considerations set out in section 244 of the Act.