

## REACH regulation

REACH stands for Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation of Chemical substances. The REACH Regulation (EC No. 1907/2006) came into force on 1 June 2007 with the objective of improving the protection of human health and the environment by rationalising and improving the previous European Union legal framework in the matter of chemical substances.

The main objective is to improve the awareness of hazards and risks deriving from existing chemical products (introduced on the market before September 1981) and new chemical products (introduced after September 1981) while maintaining the competitive edge and innovative capacity of the European chemical industry. REACH establishes the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) for centralising coordination and implementation of the entire process. ECHA is based in Helsinki (Finland) and manages registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction processes of chemical substances in order to guarantee coherency across the entire European Union.

One of the main requirements of REACH concerns manufacturers and importers who must register the single substances and preparations they either manufacture or import, except for given substances, which are exempted.

REACH classifies substances into two categories: substances subjected to transient measures and all other substances (the so-called new substances) which are not included in this definition.

Registration obligations for substances not subjected to transient measures came into force on 1 June 2008. Registration obligations for substances subjected to transient measures will instead come into force gradually and are related to the tonnage of the substance and its relative hazardousness.

Gradualness of substances subjected to transient measures is in all cases only contemplated for substances which were registered on a preliminary basis from June 1 to December 1, 2008. Transient measures can only be adopted following pre-registration. Deadlines are 2010, 2013 or 2018, according to the cases.

Otherwise, companies must stop manufacturing/importing the concerned chemical substances until ECHA provides the relative registration numbers. This will only occur after ECHA has produced a complete registration dossier for each substance.

On 28 October, ECHA published a first candidate list of 15 Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC). The list will be periodically updated with the addition of new SVHCs. The inclusion of a substance in the candidate list determines several obligations, some of which immediate, of informing the concerned supply chains: all suppliers of items containing any one of these substances in concentration higher than 0.1% by weight must, according to REACH, provide adequate information to customers, sufficient to allow safe use of the item itself and at least comprising the name of the substance.

According to the REACH application chain, Teknikabel is a downstream user of chemical substances and has consequently asked all suppliers to promptly send updates related to substance registration.

Furthermore, Teknikabel continuously monitors the SVHC Candidate List in order to inform customers according to the methods established by REACH.

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