



REACH Regulation (EC) 1907/2006

*“Better protection of the environment and human health through appropriate risk management
Based on adequate information about the dangerous properties of chemicals.”*

At the end of 2003 the EU committee proposed a new rule for substances, the REACH regulation. REACH stands for **R**egistration, **E**valuation and **A**uthorization of restricted **C**hemicals. The REACH regulation replaces a number of existing EU directives and regulations and entered into force on June 1, 2007.

The central policy objective is to transfer responsibility for the generation of data on the safety of chemical substances from governmental authorities to the parties placing them on the EU market¹. This objective covers substances used on their own, in preparations, or incorporated into finished articles. Placing on the market means supplying or making available to a third party, whether for payment or free, including importation into the EU.

Another key objective is transparency, to be achieved initially by requiring registration with the newly established European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) of all chemical substances placed on the market; registration will entail submission of detailed information about the substance, its uses, related risks and guidance on safe use.

Transparency also entails making certain (non-confidential) information available throughout the supply chain as well as to final consumers, e.g. concerning certain dangerous substances in the finished products they purchase. Therefore, all parties involved in the supply chain are obliged to define their roles in the context of REACH and collect the data necessary for the product and substance assessments. These data must be exchanged along the whole of the supply chain. The most important medium for onward transmission of information is the well-proven and familiar Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for all hazardous substances.

Overall, the legislation is expected to affect the placing on the EU market of some 30,000 chemical substances, imposing major administrative responsibilities and costs on EU producers and importers of these substances.

For imported products into the EU, REACH obligations must be fulfilled by the EU importers, who will have to rely on their suppliers outside the EU for hazard data and safe use information, which is required for registrations. If a manufacturer from outside the EU would prefer to register on behalf of its EU importers, the regulation allows them to appoint a company in the EU to act as their ‘Only Representative’. An ‘Only Representative’ will carry out the registrations on behalf of the client he represents.

¹

The 27 European Union (EU) Member States: *Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.*

REACH has started and will proceed according to the following timeline:

Date	Action
June 1, 2007	REACH entered into force
June 1, 2008	Pre-registration substances starts
November 30, 2008	Pre-registration substances ends
December 1, 2008	Registration substances starts
January 1, 2009	List of pre-registered substances published
December 1, 2010 Phase I	Deadline for registration of substances supplied at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >1000 tons per annum • >100 tons per annum, very toxic to the aquatic environment • >1 ton per annum, Carcinogen/Mutagen/toxic to Reproduction (CMR)
June 1, 2013 Phase II	Deadline for registration of substances supplied at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >100 tons per annum
June 1, 2018 Phase III	Deadline for registration of substances supplied at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • > 1 ton per annum

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