



What **REACH** means for chemical manufacturers

If you manufacture chemicals then **REACH** will apply to you. This leaflet is designed to help if you have *little* or *no* knowledge of **REACH**.

REACH
UK Competent Authority

What is REACH?

REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) is the new system for controlling chemicals in Europe and became law in the UK on 1 June 2007.

How might REACH affect you?

Do you make chemicals?

‘Chemical’ means an individual substance, not combinations (mixtures, formulations, preparations) of two or more substances. Those who mix things are downstream users and should read *REACH CA information leaflet number 4 – What REACH means to users of chemicals*.

If you do make chemicals then you might already be aware of REACH and what it means for you. However, if you have never heard of REACH or only know a little bit about it then you should read on. If you make chemicals either to use yourself or to supply to other people (even if it’s for export) then it’s likely that you will have some important responsibilities under REACH.

What chemicals are covered by REACH?

Any chemical that is manufactured in quantities of 1 tonne per year or more is covered by REACH. There are a few exceptions including radioactive substances, those in transit, waste (as defined in EU Directives) and intermediates that only exist during an enclosed reaction. Some chemicals, eg human and veterinary medicines, food and food additives, intermediates have reduced requirements and some will be treated as if they are already registered. More information on what is covered can be found at the UK REACH Competent Authority website www.hse.gov.uk/reach.

What am I expected to do under REACH?

If you want to continue to manufacture chemicals covered by REACH you will need to register them with the new European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki. Registration means providing a package of technical information on the chemical and its hazards to the ECHA. Registration is phased over a period of years based on tonnage levels and in some cases the hazards of the chemical. However, to take advantage of the phase in time you will need to pre-register between 1 June and 30 November 2008.

Pre-registration is free and fairly simple. For each chemical you will need to supply the following information to the ECHA:



- ▼ name of the chemical including an identifying number (eg CAS or EINECS number);
- ▼ your company's name and address and a contact name;
- ▼ envisaged deadline for registration and tonnage band; and
- ▼ identifier information of any structurally similar chemical which you may wish to rely on to provide useful evidence on hazards as part of your registration package.

Although you cannot send in any pre-registration information before 1 June 2008, it's a good idea to start thinking now about the inventory of chemicals you manufacture and what information you will need to gather both for pre-registration and later for registration.

Another benefit of pre-registering a chemical is that you will become part of a group of companies who have also pre-registered that same chemical. This group, called a Substance Information Exchange Forum (SIEF) will share information on hazards so that only one set of technical information has to be submitted to the ECHA. The SIEF will also work collectively on other aspects of the registration package. Membership of a SIEF will also help to share expertise and spread costs with members paying reduced registration fees. **If in doubt pre-register; it may save you a lot of time and money later on.**

Will it affect your business?

What should you do now?

DON'T PANIC!

If you need to find out more there is plenty of information available to help. The UK REACH Competent Authority website gives you more information on the areas covered in this leaflet and on REACH in general. It can be found at:

www.hse.gov.uk/reach

Visit the European Chemicals Agency website for more detailed information and to access a useful tool called Navigator which will help you work out where your chemicals fall within REACH. That can be found at:

http://reach.jrc.it/navigator_en.htm



**WHATEVER YOUR BUSINESS IS,
FIND OUT MORE TODAY –
don't leave it until it's too late!**

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