

27<sup>th</sup> March 2012

## REACH – Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restrictions of Chemicals

### (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals)

#### Background

In 2003, the European Commission set out proposals for a radical review of the EU's chemical substances policy. Under this new system called REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) businesses that manufacture or import more than one tonne of a chemical substance per year would be required to register it in a central database. It will create a single system for all chemical substances.

#### Purpose

REACH aims to improve the current EU chemicals legislation, and end the distinction between 'new' and 'existing' chemicals.

All chemicals placed on the market before 1981 (around 100,000) are called 'existing' chemicals and those introduced after 1981 (around 4,300) are called 'new' chemicals. Only new chemicals need to be tested, which has resulted in the continued use of untested substances. Consequently the current system has been unable to identify the risks posed by many chemicals.

The REACH Regulation aims to improve protection of human health and the environment through better and earlier identification of the properties of chemical substances.

#### Key Elements

The main elements of the regulations are:

#### Registration.

Manufacturers and importers will be required to gather comprehensive information on the properties of substances they produce or import in volumes over one tonne per year. They will be required to submit to a European chemicals register the necessary information to demonstrate the safe use of these substances. Failure to register will mean that the substance cannot be manufactured or imported in the EU market.

#### Evaluation.

Public Authorities will examine registration dossiers and substances of concern to determine hazards and risks.

#### Authorisation.

Use-specific authorisations will be required for chemicals that cause cancer, mutations or reproduction problems, or that accumulate in humans and in the environment. Authorisation will be granted only to businesses that can show that any risks are adequately controlled or if social and economic benefits outweigh the risks and suitable alternative substances do not exist.

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#### Timescale

- 18 December 2006: the REACH Regulation was formally adopted.
- June 2007: REACH comes into force.
- June 2008: European Chemicals Agency becomes operational.
- June 2008 to November 2008: Pre registration of 'phase-in substances'.
- November 2010:
  1. Registration deadline for substances in quantities of 1000 tonnes per year and above.
  2. carcinogens, mutagens and substances toxic to reproduction (CMR category 1 and 2) above one tonne per year.
  3. substances classified as very toxic to aquatic organisms (R50/53) above 100 tonnes per year.
  4. June 2013: Registration deadline for substances in quantities of 100 tonnes per year and more.
  5. June 2018: Registration deadline for substances in quantities of 1 tonne per year and more.

Businesses can register voluntarily before the deadline.

You can submit registration dossiers from 1 June 2008

You need to register new substances before you place them on the market.

Registration will start on 1 June 2008.

The full regulation is available at;

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oi/2006/l\\_396/l\\_39620061230enOOO10849.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oi/2006/l_396/l_39620061230enOOO10849.pdf)

#### Who is in charge of REACH?

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is the national body in charge of regulating chemicals.

They have set up a helpdesk to support businesses as the regulations come into force.

They will work closely with the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland, the Environment Agency, SEPA and the Environment and Heritage Service. This will help to ensure delivery of the environmental as well as the human health benefits of REACH.

#### Botanicals & Natural Products Action

We are pleased to confirm that Botanicals & Natural Products Ltd has completed its obligations under REACH and has registered Ethanol, EINECS 200-578-6 : CAS 64-17-5, under the Auspices of the ECHA, completed in October 2010. Registration number: 01-2119457610-43-0014

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