



## **Registration, Evaluation, Authorization & Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)**

The Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restrictions of Chemicals (REACH) is a European Union (EU) regulation governing the manufacture and import of chemical substances, which has been in force in all EU Member States, as well as Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway, since June 2007.

REACH requires all companies manufacturing or importing any chemical substances into the EU in quantities of one metric ton or more per year to register these substances with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Registration applies to chemical substances as such, in preparations (also called “mixtures”) and, under certain conditions, to articles (finished products) incorporating those substances.

### **REACH stands for:**

**Registration:** Chemical producers are required to register safety data for all chemicals produced.

**Evaluation:** Experts from member states and the European Agency evaluate safety data for higher volume chemicals and other chemicals of concern.

**Authorization:** Chemicals that are "substances of very high concern" (SVHC) are to be phased out and replaced with safer alternative chemicals.

**Restriction:** Chemicals may be completely banned or some uses of the chemicals can be restricted.

### **Scope**

Generally, REACH applies to all individual chemical substances on their own, in preparations or in articles (if the substance is intended to be released during normal and reasonably foreseeable conditions of use from an article).

Some substances are specifically excluded:

- Radioactive substances
- Substances under customs supervision
- The transport of substances
- Non-isolated intermediates
- Waste
- Some naturally occurring low-hazard substances

Some substances, covered by more specific legislation, have tailored provisions, including:

- Human and veterinary medicines
- Food and foodstuff additives
- Plant protection products and biocides

Other substances have tailored provisions within the REACH legislation, as long they are used in specified conditions:

- Isolated intermediates
- Substances used for research and development

### **Who Must Register**

REACH assigns the obligation to register on the EU based manufacturer or EU based importer. Many U.S.-based companies prefer to appoint an “only representative” to register their product(s) rather than rely on their EU-based customers to do so. An EU-based Only Representative (OR) is company that would act a legal representative within the EU and register the substances on the non-EU company’s behalf.