

## How can I prepare?

**Identify** within your company who will be **responsible** for REACH compliance.

**Create an inventory** of all substances or substances in preparations/articles that you import/distribute/handle. **Check** if the **substances or uses** in your inventory are exempted from one or all aspects of REACH.

**Identify** for each substance in which roles you need to act under REACH:

- ▶ **Manufacturer/Importer:** you manufacture or import a substance on its own or in a preparation of  $\geq 1$  tonne/year.
- ▶ **Producer/Importer or Supplier of articles:** you manufacture/import articles or place them on the market.
- ▶ **Distributor** (including retailers): you store and place on the market a substance, on its own or in a preparation.
- ▶ **Downstream user:** you use a substance, either on its own or in a preparation, in the course of industrial or professional activities, (for example: formulation, dilution, repackaging, spraying, painting).

**Carry out first preparatory actions** (for example establish a dialogue through the supply chain, compile information on uses and use conditions) according to your role. **Identify and plan** for future responsibilities you will have, keeping in mind the different timelines linked to the three tonnage levels ( $\geq 1$  tonne,  $\geq 100$  tonnes,  $\geq 1000$  tonnes).

## Where can I find further information?

The best way is to consult the website of the European Chemicals Agency:

<http://echa.europa.eu>

This website contains:

- ▶ A **Navigator tool** which will assist you to find out your REACH obligations and how to fulfil them
- ▶ **"About REACH"** which gives an overview of the legislation
- ▶ **Guidance** documents
- ▶ **IT tools** for REACH
- ▶ **FAQ** - Frequently asked Questions in English

Your **industry association** is a good source of information for sector specific issues and your **supplier/s** can answer chemical specific questions.

The **REACH helpdesk** in your country provides advice about your responsibilities and roles. Their contact details can be found on the **ECHA website**.



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# REACH

## The new EU chemicals legislation

## Does REACH affect me?

Do you know what REACH means for your products and your company? You should find out your duties under REACH if:

- ▶ You **manufacture** or **import chemical substances** or **mixtures** of chemical substances (preparations).
- ▶ You **produce** or **import articles** (for example construction materials, electronic components, toys or vehicles) which contain substances included in a list of 'substances of very high concern' or which are released during their use.
- ▶ You **process chemicals** or you **formulate preparations** for end use (for example cleaning products, paints or motor oils) or you **use** these **formulated products** professionally. In this case you are a 'downstream user'.

# REACH ME?



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 **ECHA**  
European Chemicals Agency

## What is REACH?

REACH is a new EU law on chemicals and their safe use. It deals with the **R**egistration, **E**valuation, **A**uthorisation and **R**estriction of **C**hemicals.

REACH replaces numerous EU laws related to chemicals and is complementary to other environmental and safety legislation but it will not replace sector specific legislation (for example on cosmetics or detergents).

## Are all chemicals or products concerned?

Yes, but there are extensive exemptions from certain parts of the legislation, for example chemicals in food and medicine are covered by other EU laws. Natural substances are also exempted from registration under REACH, if they are not dangerous and have not been chemically modified.



## What do I have to do?

If you manufacture or import 1 tonne or more of any chemical substance per year, you should **pre-register** the substance with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) between **1 June and 1 December 2008**. Failure to meet this deadline means that you cannot continue producing or importing the substance until you have submitted a full registration dossier. However, if you have pre-registered you can benefit from staggered registration deadlines depending on the substance and the tonnage (2010, 2013 or 2018).

If your company uses chemicals, you must apply, as a **'downstream user'**, the safety measures communicated to you by your supplier via a Safety Data Sheet or carry out yourself a chemical safety assessment. Make sure your supplier knows about your uses!

If you import any formulated products or articles be aware of your potential registration obligations!

## Will REACH ban chemicals?

**Restrictions** on marketing and use of chemicals will remain in place and be transferred to REACH.

REACH introduces a new **authorisation** procedure. However, this only applies to the most dangerous substances, which will be identified at a later stage.

First substances may be included on a **candidate list** of 'substances of very high concern' from autumn 2008 and made available on the ECHA website.



## What are the timelines?

