ECHA is becoming the world’s leading regulatory authority on the safe use of chemicals. We make sure that information on the hazards and safe use of chemicals is available to everyone. You and your environment will be better protected.

**ECHA in numbers**
- Over 500 staff from 27 European countries
- 4 scientific committees with experts from all Member States
- 1 Forum of national enforcement authorities
- 3 expert networks
- Over 6,000 substances registered
- Over five million classification and labelling notifications for more than 100,000 substances

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**Who we are**

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is the driving force in implementing the EU's groundbreaking chemicals legislation for the protection of human health and the environment. ECHA was founded in 2007 and is based in Helsinki, Finland.

**What we do**

We protect human health and the environment. Our work helps ensure that chemicals are used safely and that the most hazardous ones are substituted by safer alternatives.

We:
- help companies to comply with the legislation
- advance the safe use of chemicals
- address chemicals of concern
- provide information on chemicals

**REACH**

Under the REACH Regulation, companies are responsible for providing information on the hazards, risks and safe use of chemical substances that they manufacture or import.

Companies register this information with ECHA where it is made freely available on our website. So far, thousands of the most hazardous and the most commonly used substances have been registered.

European consumers can now ask retailers whether the consumer goods that they buy contain dangerous substances.

REACH stimulates the development of safer chemicals and restricts the use of the most hazardous ones.

**CLP**

The Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP) introduces into the EU the globally harmonised system for classifying and labelling chemicals. This means that the same system is now used throughout the world.

This will enable workers and consumers to become more familiar with the symbols and to get to know the effects of chemicals and know how to use products safely. International trade in chemicals will also be easier, as the standards for transportation and supply will be the same world-wide.

Companies need to notify ECHA of the classification and labelling that they use for their chemicals. So far, ECHA has received millions of these notifications. The information is freely available on our website.

**Biocides**

Biocidal products protect us against pests and other harmful micro-organisms. They include, for example, insect repellents and disinfectants used in hospitals.

The Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) is introduced to ensure that we have enough information about these products so that consumers can use them safely.

**PIC**

The law on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) sets guidelines for the export and import of hazardous chemicals. Through this mechanism, the receiving countries are informed when hazardous chemicals are about to enter their country and have the possibility of controlling and, in certain cases, rejecting their imports.