

ECHA-17-B-02-EN

Access to documents at ECHA – 2016 Key figures



The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is committed to meeting its obligations under the Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001. This factsheet presents the main data on access to documents in the Agency during 2016.

ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

ECHA grants access to documents according to the principles of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 on public access to documents.

If an application is unclear, we provide assistance by clarifying the scope of request.

ECHA will normally provide an answer within 15 working days of the registration of the access to documents request, and has the possibility to extend this by a further 15 working days in the case of a complex request.

However, when a request relates to a very long document or a very large number of documents we discuss with the applicant in order to find a friendly solution within a suitable timeline.

To help people to submit requests, there is a web form on ECHA's website:

» <http://echa.europa.eu/access-to-documents-web-form>

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN 2016

Throughout the year, we received 85 initial applications, amounting to 319 documents processed. On top of this, we also received three confirmatory applications (i.e. requests for ECHA to review its earlier decision) and one initial application was still pending.

No. of received applications and requested documents in 2016

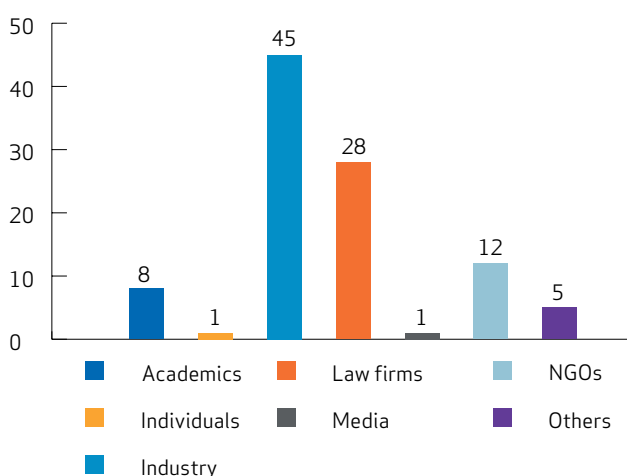
Number of applications	85
Number of requested documents	319*

*number after clarifications

The requests mainly concerned documents under the REACH Regulation. The majority related either to Registration dossiers, Committee work or different processes under risk management. We also kept receiving many requests relating to the Biocidal Products Regulation.

As in previous years the profile of applicants demonstrates that access to documents attracts stakeholders with a commercial interest in the work of ECHA. In 2016, 73 % of all applications originated from the industry and law firms.

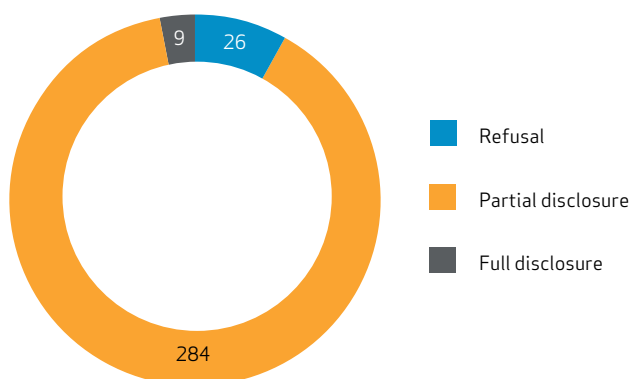
Profile of the applicants in 2016 (by percentage)



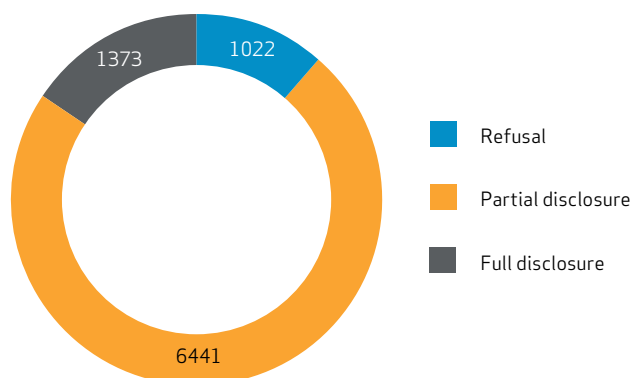
DECISION MAKING

In 2016, we answered by way of decisions to 45 initial applications. While 40 requests were withdrawn, the decisions concerned 293 documents and approximately 7800 fully or partially pages disclosed.

Outcome of the applications in number of documents in 2016:



Outcome of the applications in number of pages in 2016:



Half of the document pages, of which access was refused, had not been disclosed because of ongoing Court proceedings. Full refusal had further to be employed on the grounds of the protection of legal advice and the protection of commercial interests and intellectual property, but only for a small number of documents (26).

The most applied reasons, triggering the documents to be partially disclosed have been the protection of privacy and integrity of the individual as well as the protection of commercial interests and intellectual property. Otherwise, the whole content of documents was fully disclosed.

In 2016, ECHA received only three confirmatory applications. One resulted in a court case (T-762/16). ECHA did not receive any complaint lodged with the European Ombudsman.

All this demonstrates that ECHA continues to ensure the transparency in its decision-making processes.

FURTHER IMPORTANT LINKS:

Access to documents Regulation:

- » <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:145:0043:0048:EN:PDF>

Decision implementing access to documents Regulation in ECHA:

- » http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13604/mb_12_2008_final_implementing_rules_access_to_documents_en.pdf

ECHA's webpage on transparency:

- » <http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/about-us/the-way-we-work/procedures-and-policies/transparency>

Information on chemicals:

- » <http://echa.europa.eu/information-on-chemicals>

In addition, national and ECHA Helpdesk can answer your specific question about REACH, CLP, Biocides and PIC Regulations.

- » <http://echa.europa.eu/support/helpdesks>