

Factsheet

ECHA-16-FS-02-EN

Access to documents at ECHA – 2015 key figures

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) replies to access to document applications in line with the Access to Documents Regulation ((EC) No 1049/2001). This factsheet presents the main data on access to documents in the Agency during 2015.

ECHA'S ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY

Granting access to documents helps to implement ECHA's transparent decision-making process.

In 2015, following clarification from applicants, many of the applications received appeared to be either requests for information or requests for already publicly available documents.

ECHA now has a dedicated web page with information on how we ensure transparency in our Agency, and what decisions, plans, reports and financial documents are disseminated by the Agency:

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

The Agency now also communicates data on chemicals in a new user-friendly format through the infocard:

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

In addition, you should contact the national helpdesks in each Member State and the ECHA Helpdesk if you have specific questions about REACH, CLP, PIC and the Biocidal Products regulations.

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

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN 2015

Throughout 2015, we received 93 initial application requests, which amounted to 184 documents. On top of this, we also received two confirmatory applications.

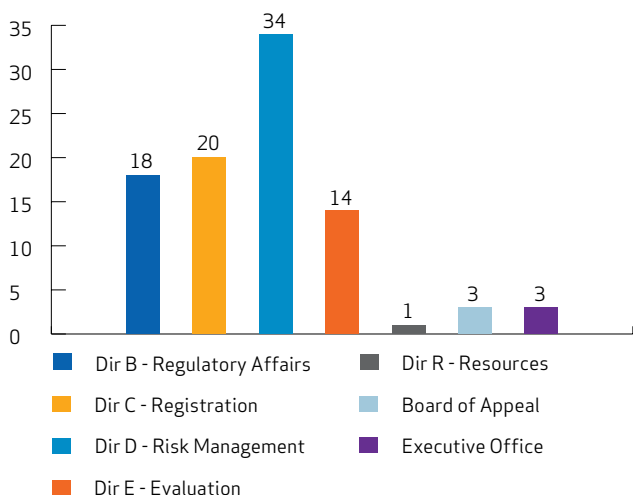
No. of received applications and requested documents in 2015

No. of applications	93
No. of requested documents	184*

* number after clarifications

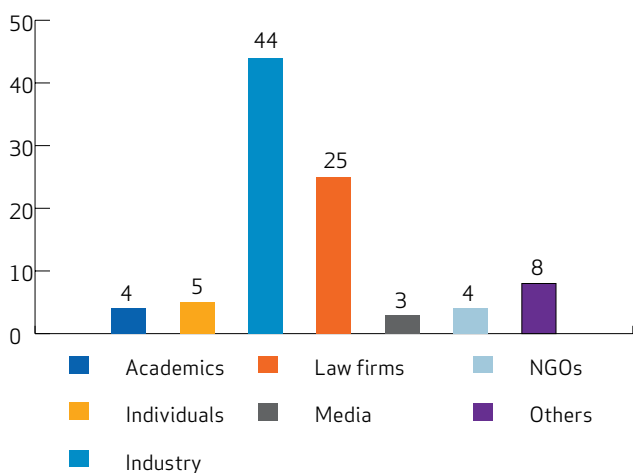
This year, our regulatory services dealing with risk management (34), registration (20) and evaluation (14) were the busiest. We also received many requests relating to the Biocidal Products and CLP regulations that were treated as part of risk management.

Distribution of requests



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 2015, 74 % of all applications originated from industry and law firms.

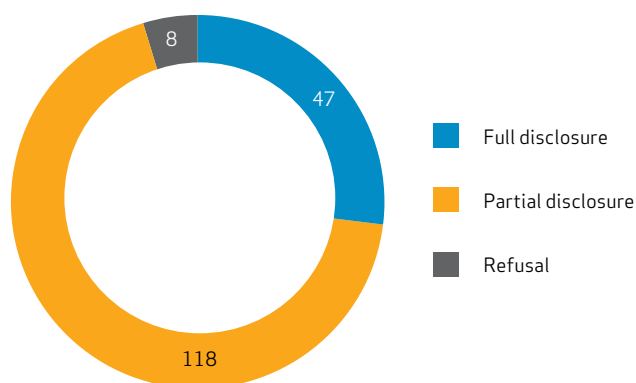
Profile of the applicants in 2015 (by percentage)



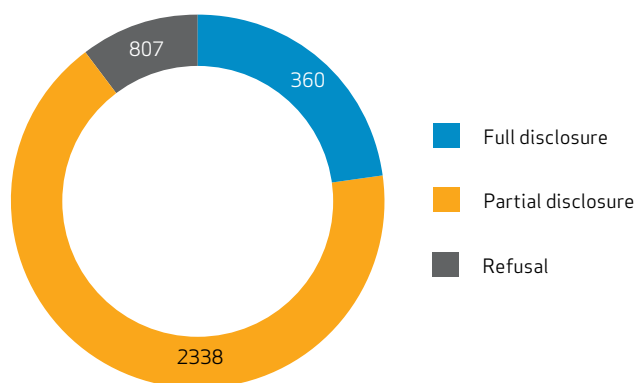
DECISION MAKING

In 2015, we adopted decisions on 52 initial applications, which amounted to 173 documents and approximately 3 500 pages. These numbers include one initial application received in 2014 and answered in 2015 and exclude five pending applications received in 2015, which have been reviewed in 2016.

Outcome of the applications in number of documents in 2015



Outcome of the applications in number of pages in 2015



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

Full refusal had to be employed on the grounds of the protection of an ongoing decision-making process, the protection of the court proceedings and legal advice and the protection of commercial interests and intellectual property, but only for a small number of documents (8).

In 2015, ECHA only received two confirmatory applications. They did not result in court proceedings. ECHA did not receive any complaint lodged with the European Ombudsman.

The above demonstrates that ECHA continues to ensure transparency in its decision-making processes.

IMPORTANT LINKS:

Webform on ECHA's website:

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

Access to Documents Regulation:

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

Decision implementing the Access to Documents Regulation in ECHA:

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