

# Responsibilities under REACH enforcement: a case study

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This is the case of a Distributing company that buys a chemical substance from an EU Manufacturer and store and sells it to several Downstream Users.





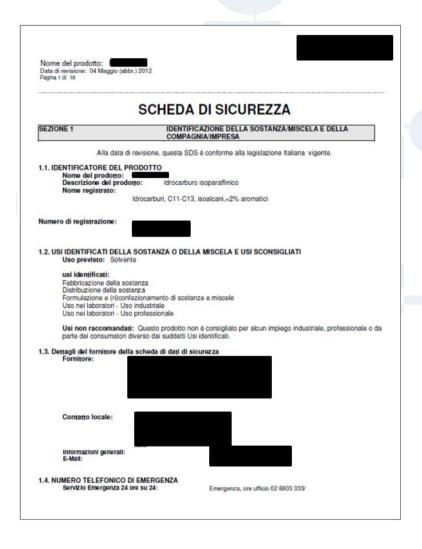
When buying the product from the Manufacturer, the Distributor receives the SDS of the chemical substance.

But without the corresponding ES.

The Distributor forwards the SDS with the name of the original supplier.



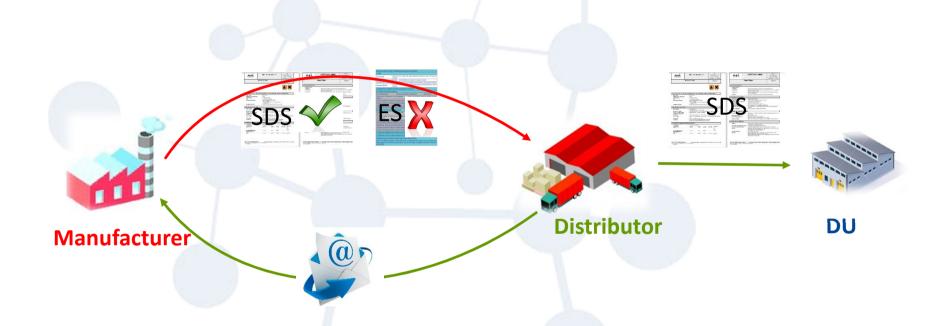




- Original Manufacturer's SDS sent to DUs.
- ES completely missing.
- Product properties
  - R65:Harmful: may cause lung damage if swallowed
  - R66:Repeated exposure may cause skin dryness or cracking
  - H304:May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways
  - EUH066:Repeated exposure may cause skin dryness or cracking



What can the Distributor do?



The Distributor, requests the ES from the Manufacturer.



#### **REQUEST:**

Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 3:08 PM

Dear A,

I hope you are the right person to contact for this request. If not, please let me know.

My colleague from Italy is asking for the **most recent version of extSDS** for XXX. According to her, the version she has currently **contains the uses but without mentioning descriptors and ESs**. May I kindly ask you to provide most recent version in Italian Language and in English. If not available in Italian, English alone would also do.

Many thanks in advance! Kind regards

M

#### **REPLY**:

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 05, 2012 16:09

Dear M,

Please find attached the latest version of XXXX ext-SDS in Italian and in English.

The ext-SDS of this grade does not contain Exposure Scenario (ES) because it is only classified for Aspiration Hazard (H304) and EUH066.

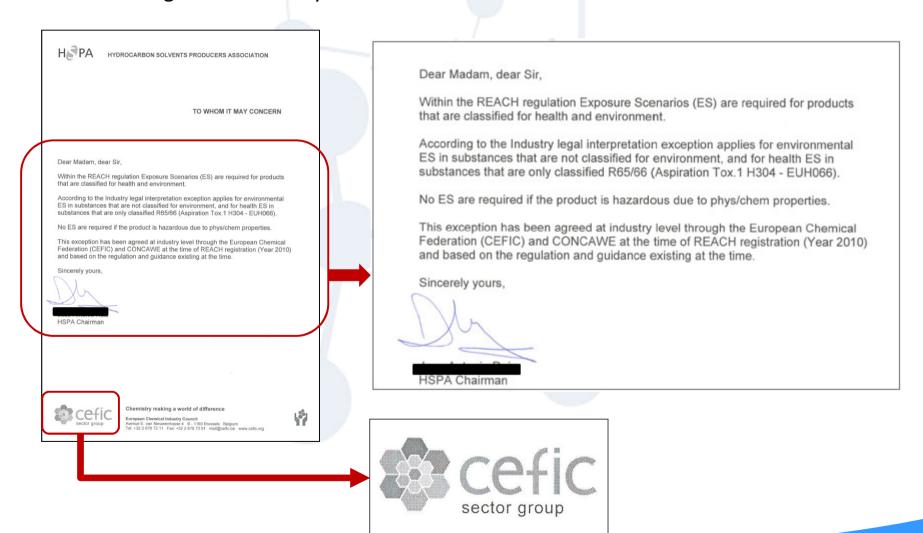
Below some background information to explain why some of our ext-SDS do not have ES:

Hope this helps,

Regards, A



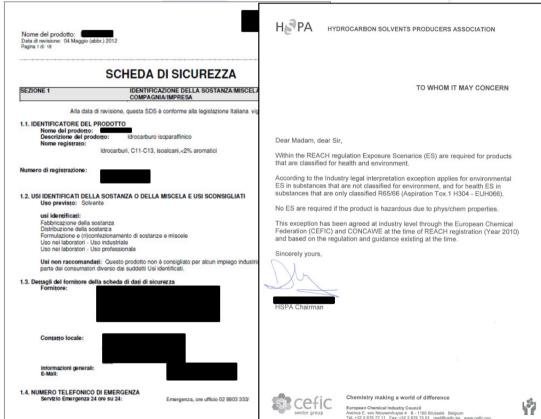
The answer from the Manufacturer/supplier is that the substance is classified as Asp. Tox1 H304 EUH066 under Regulation 1272/2008, and that there is a common understanding of the industry that for this human hazard no ES is needed.





When being inspected the Distributor, provides to the authorities the answer and the document sent by the Manufacturer/supplier.





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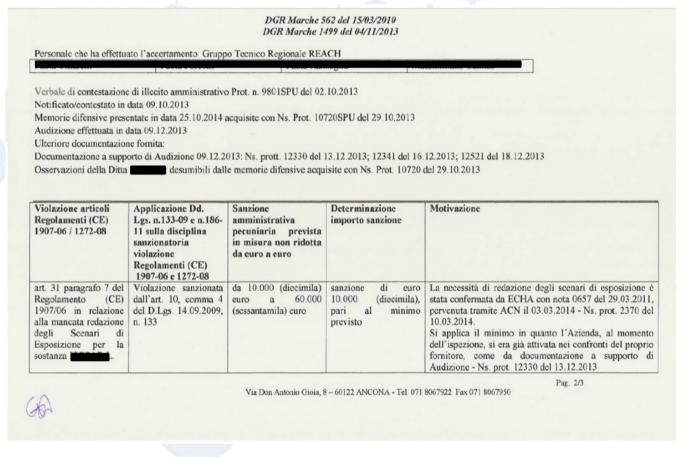
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After the evaluation of the documents by the authorities, they conclude that distributing company is not complying with Art 31(7) and is fined for that.





#### Reasons for bringing the issue to the Forum



- 1. Under REACH Regulation the requirement for distributors is very clear, to ensure that the information related to the chemical substance is communicated further up and down the supply chain.
- 2. The responsibility to prepare a chemical safety report is of the registrant.
- 3. The distributor does not have the obligation to prepare a chemical safety report.
- 4. According to the generally agreed approach the distributor should, in this case, communicate up the supply chain to request the missing ES on behalf of the DU.

#### Even more



#### The documentation presented to the authorities should have been enough.

**Question:** My supplier doesn't provide the ES of a substance justifying that solvents with aspiration hazards don't need it. I have it documented via email communication.

If an inspector comes to my company to check our compliance with the REACH regulation as DU. Does this documentation via email validity to justify why we don't have the ES? If not, how can I justify it otherwise? Who is non-compliant with the regulation?

Dear Miss Garmendia,

Thank you for your enquiry to the ECHA Helpdesk concerning the lack of ES for a given substance.

Issues regarding inspection are the responsibility of the national enforcement authority (NEA). However, the generally agreed approach is that the DU should communicate with his supplier about the issue and record this communication. E-mail is an acceptable form of documentation. When another party is non-compliant, or suspected of being non-compliant, the DU also has the possibility of informing the NEA. The DU is responsible under other legislation (chemical agent directive) for assessing the risk and ensuring that the use is safe.

In support of this I refer you to section 3.5 of the Guidance for downstream users and frequently asked question (FAQ's are agreed by ECHA, national helpdesks and the Commission) FAQ 0943 which relates to the timing of DU obligations and includes the response: "In cases where the required information has not been provided in the SDS, it is advisable that the DU communicates with his supplier to check why, record this communication, and the date when they receive an ES." Section 3.5 of the guidance relates generally to supplier responses and is partly relevant to your question.

Yours sincerely,

**ECHA Helpdesk** 

#### **Actions from the Forum**



- 1. Clarify the responsibilities of the different actors in the supply chain
- 2. In this particular case:
  - who is responsible to prepare the exposure scenario and
  - who should be fined

#### Even more



#### 3. Harmonize MS enforcement

D.Lgs. 133 del 14 settembre 2009, in vigore dal 10 Ottobre 2011, riguardante la "Disciplina sanzionatoria per la violazione delle disposizioni del Regolamento(CE) n. 1907/2006 REACH"

Art. 10.

Violazione degli abblighi derivanti dagli articoli 7, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 e 36 del regolamento in materia di n. ezioni all'interno della catena d'approvvigionamento.

4. Salvo che il fatto costituisca reato, un attore della catena d'approvvigionamento che in violazione all'articolo 31, paragrafo 7 del regolamento, non riporta i pertinenti scenari di esposizione in allegato alla deda di dati di sicurezza, e' punito con la sanzione amministrativa pecuniaria da 10.000 a con o euro.

An actor in the supply chain

Article 31

Requirements for safety data sheets

Un attore della catena d'approvvigionamento che sia tenuto a predisporre una relazione sulla sicurezza chimica a norma dell'articolo 14 o dell'articolo 37 riporta i pertinenti scenari di esposizione (incluse, se del caso, le categorie d'uso e d'esposizione) in un allegato della scheda di dati di sicurezza che contempli gli usi identificati e comprenda le condizioni specifiche derivanti dall'applicazione dell'allegato XI, punto 3.

Any actor in the supply chain who is required to prepare a chemical safety report according to Articles 14 or 37 shall place the relevent exposure scenarios (including use and exposure categories who appropriate) in an annex to the safety data sheet covering identication of Section 3 of Annex XI.



# Thank you for your attention

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