

News Alert:

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REACH-IT UPDATE TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE AND ALLOW NEW SUBSTANCE NOTIFIERS TO CLAIM THEIR REGISTRATION NUMBERS

On 11 November, ECHA will release an upgraded version of REACH-IT to improve the accessibility and responsiveness of the system. This release will also allow companies to claim registration numbers online for new substances they notified under previous legislation. Finally, an Industry User Manual (IUM) on REACH-IT will soon be launched.

With over one million pre-registrations already in the REACH-IT database and close to 15 000 companies signed up, the load on the system is continuously increasing. The number of daily users has increased from below 2 000 in September to close to 5 500 in early November and between 20 000 and 50 000 pre-registrations are currently processed daily. The previous REACH-IT release on 24 October eliminated the processing queue of bulk pre-registrations but the system was still operating at its capacity and many users were still having difficulties in accessing REACH-IT.

ECHA is aware that companies are trying hard to pre-register their substances, often accessing the system outside normal working hours to ensure that they can pre-register successfully. The changes made in the new release of REACH-IT should improve the availability and the responsiveness of the system.

At the same time ECHA recognises that many companies may still be deciding whether they need to pre-register, particularly if they are unsure about pre-registrations further up the supply chain. ECHA therefore anticipates an even greater load on REACH-IT and during the three remaining weeks before the 1 December 2008 deadline ECHA will continue to explore additional measures to ensure that companies can successfully pre-register by that date.

Registration numbers for notified new substances

ECHA would also like to inform companies that they can now claim registration numbers for the “new” substances that they notified before 1 June 2008 under previous legislation. According to Article 24 of REACH, by 1 December 2008 the Agency had to assign registration numbers to all notifications made in accordance with Directive 67/548/EEC.

These numbers have now been assigned; to obtain the registration numbers assigned to their notified substances, notification owners will have to request their numbers from ECHA via REACH-IT. A new web page and a Q&A document on how to claim a registration number for a previously notified substance will shortly be published on the ECHA website to provide further information.

REACH-IT User Manual

ECHA will soon launch an Industry User Manual (IUM) on REACH-IT that will cover all REACH-IT functions. The manual is divided into different parts. The following parts will soon be available on the ECHA website:

- Part 1 Getting Started with REACH-IT introduces the background of REACH-IT and the main definitions and concepts.
- Part 2, 3, 4 and 10 provide step-by-step instructions for sign-up, log-in, online pre-registrations and claiming of registration numbers for notified substances.

Additional parts (5-9) of the manual will be published as further functions become available in REACH-IT.

Further Information

The XML format for submission of pre-registration files specified by ECHA can be accessed at:

<http://ecbwbiu5.jrc.it/index.php?fuseaction=home.preregistrationFormat&type=public>

General information on pre-registration:

http://echa.europa.eu/reachit/pre-registration-it_en.asp

General information on REACH-IT:

http://echa.europa.eu/reachit_en.asp

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