You may have heard the term “downstream user” being used in connection with the REACH and CLP regulation. This page explains who is a downstream user, and outlines the main legal obligations under REACH.

**WHO IS A DOWNSTREAM USER?**

“Downstream user” is the term used in the REACH and CLP regulation to describe users of chemicals. You are a downstream user if you or your company use chemicals in an industrial setting, or if you use chemicals in a professional activity such as cleaning, painting etc. Distributors are not normally downstream users, unless they undertake activities with open chemicals, such as formulation or transferring chemicals between containers (refilling). The general public, who use chemicals in a personal capacity, are not downstream users and are referred to as consumers.

**WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR A COMPANY THAT USES CHEMICALS?**

A company that uses chemicals should know the rights and obligations they have as a downstream user. The main ones are outlined below. Downstream users who formulate mixtures for supply or produce articles which incorporate substances have additional obligations under both REACH and CLP that are not described here.

- Check your use is covered in any exposure scenarios you receive
- Implement measures specified by your supplier to ensure the safe use of the substance or take appropriate action.

  This information may help you in assessing the risk of chemicals under other environmental health and safety legislation

- Inform your supplier if you have new information on the hazards of the substance or if the risk management advice is not appropriate.

  For example, you may be aware of adverse health effects being experienced by your workers, or have evidence that the proposed risk management measures are overly precautionary.

- Take appropriate action if using a substance included in the Authorisation List or the List of Restrictions.

  The preferred measure is to substitute the substance or the process with a safer alternative. Avoid surprises by keeping an eye on which substances are involved in the regulatory process.

- Provide information regarding how you use a substance to your suppliers

  This helps to ensure that you receive relevant information on safe use, because manufacturers and importers can base their chemical safety assessments on this information when they register a substance. This action is voluntary and often done via sector organisations and Use Maps. Confirm with your sector organisation that your use is included. This is particularly important before the REACH registration deadline 2018
WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ... about the role of DOWNSTREAM USERS?

- For general downstream user information, including interactive map with links, see http://www.echa.europa.eu/downstream
- For presentations and videos about downstream users, see http://echa.europa.eu/regulations/reach/downstream-users/presentations-for-downstream-users
- For information on substances involved in the regulatory process, see http://echa.europa.eu/addressing-chemicals-of-concern
- For information on how downstream users can provide information to registrants, see http://echa.europa.eu/csr-es-roadmap/use-maps