The REACH regulation (EC) 1907/2006 includes the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals. The aim is to protect human health and the environment from risks from chemicals. REACH supports and complements other EU legislation that also applies to users of chemicals, including environmental, health and safety legislations. This document explains how it affects users of chemicals in the workplace.

What does that mean for a company that uses chemicals?

The main elements of REACH are outlined below, together with what they mean for a company that uses chemicals.

| Registration | Companies that manufacture or import more than 1 tonne per year of a substance into the EEA must register with ECHA. | • You may need to register if you manufacture or import directly.  
• If you import mixtures, check if any of the components needs to be registered. |
| Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction | There are a number of mechanisms within REACH to identify chemicals of concern and to manage the risks posed by these chemicals. | • Be aware if any chemicals you use are restricted, require authorisation, or have harmonised classification.  
• Aim to substitute chemicals of concern whenever possible |
| Information in the supply chain | When a substance is hazardous, registrants prepare a chemical safety assessment for all the uses of that substance. Relevant information to protect human health and the environment is provided in the safety data sheet and exposure scenarios. | • When you receive safety data sheets and exposure scenarios, check that you implement the recommended measures.  
• If you supply hazardous substances or mixtures, provide information to users so they can use them safely.  
• If you have new information on the hazards or risk management measures for a substance, communicate that to your supplier. |

Where can I get more information ...about the REACH Regulation?


Web pages containing information specifically aimed at Downstream users have been tagged accordingly. Click the tag to retrieve the list of relevant content.