

ECHA/NA/12/15

Updated Guidance for monomers & polymers

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has published an update to the Guidance for monomers and polymers following the conclusion of the consultation process

Helsinki, 26 April 2012 – The ECHA Guidance for monomers and polymers was first published in 2008. A need for an update arose following the European Court of Justice Judgement C-558/07. It clarified that the concept of monomer substances refers to both reacted and unreacted monomers (REACH Article 6(1) and 6(3)). This potentially has a direct impact on the registration obligations as previously outlined in the Guidance.

Accordingly, ECHA prepared a draft amendment of the guidance document that was consulted with the Competent Authorities for REACH and CLP (CARACAL). The final version 2.0 takes due account of the feedback received.

Relevant concepts have been clarified in specific sections of the document. In particular, additional reference to REACH Article 6(1) to cover the registration obligations for unreacted monomers and other substances in a polymer has been made. The Guidance has also been aligned with the newly agreed interpretation on natural polymers already outlined in ECHA's Frequently Asked Questions on REACH. Other minor changes and editorial corrections have also been made.

Further information

Guidance for monomers and polymers:

<http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/guidance-documents/guidance-on-reach>.

Consultation Procedure on Guidance:

http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13559/mb_14_2011_consultation_procedure_guidance_en.pdf

European Court of Justice Judgement C-558/07 of 7 July 2009:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:62007CJ0558:EN:HTML>

REACH Regulation:

<http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/regulations/reach/legislation>

Support section of the ECHA website:

<http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/support>