

REACH - New EU chemicals legislation

In Europe the EC-regulation "Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals" (REACH, 1907/2006/EC) has entered into force on June 1st, 2007. The aim of this backbone of the new EC-legislation for hazardous chemicals is to better understand and document the risks associated with the application of chemicals. Producers and importers of chemicals will be forced to register their products formally at a new European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki, Finland before they are allowed to (further) sell them in the EC. Chemical and physical data of substances have to be specified. Hazardous substances must undergo expensive toxicological tests, which have to be paid by those groups.

Timetable for REACH

Date	Duties for producers, importers and downstream users
June 1 st , 2007	Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) must comply with REACH Extended communication down the supply chain (applicable for substances not requiring a MSDS as well) Marketing and use restrictions for certain substances Harmonisation of classification and labelling at Community level for substances with carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction (CMR) properties and respiratory sensitisers
June 1 st , 2008	Start of pre-registration of substances over 1 t/year (Caution: Only half a year time for pre-registration!)
December 1 st , 2008	Pre-registration completed of so-called „Phase-In-“ (existing) chemicals, which are already marketed in the EU
June 1 st , 2009	ECHA starts to publish the names of chemicals subject to authorisation in Annex XIV of REACH. For further use of these substances special time-limited permissions will be required.
December 1 st , 2010 *	Registration completed of substances, which are marketed by at least one producer or importer in quantities exceeding 1000 t annually within the EU. The same applies for Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) such as CMRs over 1 t/year. Applies as well for substances classified as very toxic for aquatic organisms over 100 t/year
June 1 st , 2013 *	Registration completed of substances over 100 t/year, which are classified as toxic for aquatic organisms
June 1 st , 2018 *	Registration completed of all substances left over 1 t/year

* This transitional time limit is only valid for phase-in-substances pre-registered until December 1st, 2008.