



REACH REGULATION

CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

JUNE 2011



KEEP INFORMED
www.limas-eup.eu



eco-innovation 

WHEN BUSINESS MEETS THE ENVIRONMENT

Project Funded by EACI - Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation. Call Identifier CIP-EIP-Eco-Innovation 2008. **Disclaimer:** this document contains information about the results of the study done by the authors and is not to be perceived as the opinion of EACI. The Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



REACH REGULATION

CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

REACH is the European Community **Regulation on chemicals and their safe use**, which aims to ensure a high level of protection not only for the human health, but also for the environment. REACH is the acronym for the **EC Regulation 1907/2006¹**, concerning **Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemical substances**. Another fourth stage needs to be added to the previous three: **Restriction**, whereby you can limit the use, production or marketing of certain substances or chemicals.

REACH affects manufacturers, importers and users of chemicals, preparations and goods, but their obligations vary depending on each case. In the ErP&EE sector (Energy-related Products & Electrical-Electronic sector), most companies act as downstream users of chemicals. Under REACH, a "downstream user" is any natural person or corporate entity established within the European Union which uses substances or substances in preparations in the course of its industrial or professional activities. However, in some cases, downstream user companies can also play the role of manufacturer or importer in the development of their activities, increasing their obligations under REACH.

Manufacturers and **importers** must provide a set of information and send it as a registration dossier to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). This information refers to the dangers of the substances and whether its use could origin risks. Manufacturers and importers of hazardous substances should assess the exact nature and scope of these risks in a "chemical safety assessment". On the other hand, certain very hazardous substances will require authorization before they can be used and the use of certain substances may be restricted.

A **downstream user** may not use chemicals if they are not pre-registered or if registration is not performed by the manufacturer/importer (their provider) on the required date. Suppliers must provide the safety data sheets with information about the safety of the substance or preparation. Therefore, providers should continue providing safety data sheets, but including the risks deriving from the use and measures to control these risks. For manufactures and importations over 10 tons/year, safety data sheets should also include information about the "exposure scenario" attached. This "exposure scenario" provides more detailed information on how to use the substance or preparation safely and how to protect themselves, customers and the environment from possible risks.

From a practical point of view, obligations for **downstream users** fall into two areas: "risk reduction" and "communication." Risk reduction would have two main obligations: i) implement the measures for reducing the risk proposed by the supplier and ii) satisfy the conditions of use for the chemical substances which are under authorization. In the communication case, the main duty should be to communicate relevant information about the exposure scenarios to the downstream users, including safety data sheets.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:136:0003:0280:en:PDF>



CLP REGULATION

CLASSIFICATION, LABELLING AND PACKAGING OF SUBSTANCES AND MIXTURES

In parallel and in conjunction with REACH, the **CLP Regulation**² has been developed. This is the new European regulation on classification, labeling and packaging of dangerous chemical substances and mixtures. With this regulation, the European Union introduces a new system for classifying and labeling chemicals based on the United Nations Globally Harmonized System (UN GHS).

LEGAL TEXTS

[REACH Regulation](#)¹ (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006)
[CLP Regulation](#)² (Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008)
[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 790/2009](#)³

RECOMMENDED LINKS

[REACH](#)⁴ - European Commission – Environment
[REACH](#)⁵ - European Commission – Enterprise and Industry
[CLP](#)⁶ - European Commission – Environment
[CLP](#)⁷ - European Commission – Enterprise and Industry
[REACH information web portal](#)⁸ This site is only available in Spanish
[European Chemicals Agency \(ECHA\)](#)⁹

NOTE: you can obtain more detailed and practical information about REACH, (e.g. guidance documents for its practical implementation), by contacting and consulting with the competent national or regional environmental agency.

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:353:0001:1355:en:PDF>

³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:235:0001:0439:en:PDF>

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach_intro.htm

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/reach/index_en.htm

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/ghs/index_en.htm

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/classification/index_en.htm

⁸ <http://www.portalreach.info/reach/>

⁹ <http://echa.europa.eu/>