

REACH 2013 - Call to action

Workers' reps in companies manufacturing, importing or using chemicals

The REACH Regulation requires the registration of all chemical substances that are manufactured or imported into the EU, Iceland, Norway or Liechtenstein in quantities of one tonne or more per year. If information on the hazardous properties of the chemical is unavailable, it should be generated and the safety data sheets should be updated.

Substances already on the market have to follow specific registration deadlines, based on their volumes and on their health and environmental hazards. New substances must always be registered before they are placed on the market.

IS YOUR EMPLOYER READY?

Companies manufacturing or importing chemical substances into the EU in quantities of **100 tonnes or more per year** have to **register them** by the second REACH deadline of **31 May 2013**.



Remember the deadlines

First registration
30 November 2010
≥ 1000 tonnes/year

Second registration
31 May 2013
≥ 100 tonnes/year

Third registration
31 May 2018
≥ 1 tonne/year

WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF YOUR EMPLOYER?

If your company is **manufacturing or importing a chemical substance** at or above 100 tonnes per year, your employer has to:

- Gather all available information about the properties of the substance and share it with other manufacturers and importers of the same substance for the preparation of the registration dossier;
- Use this information to assess the risks for workers' and citizens' health, as well as the environment;
- Identify the necessary risk management measures to ensure the safe use of the substance by your company and by your customers;
- Update your safety data sheets as required;
- Submit a registration dossier to the European Chemicals Agency. Part of this may be submitted jointly with other companies;
- Pay a fee to complete the registration.

If your company is **using chemicals in the workplace**, check with your employer whether:

- The chemical substances you use have been registered or are intended for registration in 2013. This information is provided on ECHA's website;
- Your uses are covered by up-to-date safety data sheets;
- The risk management measures as described in the safety data sheets and exposure scenarios are implemented to ensure the safe use of the chemical.

WHY SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED?

If your company fails to comply with the REACH requirements, it can have a significant impact on you as you may not be using the chemicals safely. National enforcement authorities may also take action with potential cost implications and ultimately may even shut down your production lines.

HOW WILL THESE NEW RULES BENEFIT YOU?

By complementing other health and safety rules, they will improve worker protection by enhancing the safe use of chemicals, reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals and avoiding occupational diseases caused by them.

WHERE TO FIND FURTHER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT?

ETUC offers dedicated REACH web pages:

<http://www.etuc.org/r/830>

ECHA provides guidance, IT tools and assistance to companies in their roles and obligations as registrants and users of chemicals:

<http://echa.europa.eu/2013>

<http://echa.europa.eu/downstream>

National REACH helpdesks offer practical advice in local languages:

<http://echa.europa.eu/nationalhelp/>

EU-OSHA provides information on how to manage the risks of using dangerous substances at work:

<http://osha.europa.eu/topics/ds>

REACH 2013 - Act now

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