



20.12.2016

What is the REACH Regulation on chemical substances?

The REACH Regulation on chemical substances concerns the registration and evaluation of (chemicals) substances and the authorisation procedure for the use of hazardous chemicals and the restriction of their use. REACH is an EU regulation and applies to all enterprises operating in or outside the European Economic Area which sell, import or manufacture substances and/or products that contain what REACH evaluations have shown to be substances of very high concern.

REACH was created to promote high levels of human health and environmental protection and facilitate the free movement of substances within the European Economic Area. The regulation is enforced by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). In Finland, the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (TUKES) is the supervising authority.

Substances of very high concern in products (Candidate list of substances)

REACH registered substances which have been evaluated and identified as being of very high concern are placed on a so-called candidate list. All substances of very high concern are categorised, according to their toxicity, as either carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic for reproduction, or persistent or very persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic. Thus, the substances on the candidate list give rise to concern because of their severe effect on human health and/or the environment.

Obligations

Enterprises have a duty to inform the supply chain, the European Chemicals Agency and, upon request, the consumer, about candidate list substances in products and components. To make this possible, contract manufacturers of components and parts provide information on possible candidate list substances to the buyer. At present, there are 169 substances of very high concern (candidate list substances), but their number is set to increase in the coming years.

Example of the duty to inform

Product group	Product's commercial name	Candidate list REACH (SVHC)	Substance's CAS-number	Quantity %	CLP-classification	Additional information e.g. use/object
Adhesives	nnnnnnnn	1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP)	872-50-4	< 0.3%	REACH substance of very high concern (SVHC)	Gluing parts

Links

Candidate list of substances: <https://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/candidate-list-table>

Duties and obligations concerning substances on the candidate list (in Finnish): <http://www.kemikaalineuvonta.fi/Documents/reach/esitteet/SVHC-velvoitteet.pdf>

TUKES national REACH advice service: <http://www.kemikaalineuvonta.fi/>