

REACH: Standard Questionnaire for Communication Along the Supply Chain

February 2007

Introduction to REACH

The REACH legislation will enter into force on 1st June 2007.

Substances in volumes over one ton per year must be neither manufactured nor imported in the EU (even in preparations/mixtures and articles under certain conditions), unless they are registered.

Transitional periods will be granted under the REACH Regulation in order to perform comprehensive registration tasks. Depending on substance volumes and certain health and environmental classifications, these transitional periods range from 3.5 to 11 years (Article 23). To be able to benefit from these transitional periods, manufacturers/importers must pre-register a substance.

It is essential for users of substances to know if suppliers (Manufacturer/Importer) will register the substances they require – to confirm that these substances will be available in the future and their specific uses will be covered by a registration.

It is also essential for manufacturers/importers to be informed about downstream applications as well as use and exposure information for the respective substances in order to be able to generate the required chemical safety report covering the identified uses.

This standard questionnaire is intended to help purchasers and suppliers in an adequate exchange of information for registration purposes, without overly specific details on uses or product composition - i.e. confidential business information is respected.

The following points should be considered when using this questionnaire:

- In the questionnaire the term "product" stands for a substance or preparation as sold to downstream users. The questionnaires offer the possibility to defer answering to a later point in time. It is recommended to make use of this option in certain cases, until circumstances allow a proper assessment of the factors influencing this decision.
- A careful completion of the questionnaire will take some time, because in many cases requests for information will have to be sent to sellers' supplier or to purchasers' downstream users. For this reason, a time span of one month is realistic for answering the questions. For complex products (mixtures etc) even more time may be needed.
- One separate questionnaire is completed for each product.
- In case some information is changed, an update needs to be sent.
- The questionnaire might be updated in the next months, because more definitive information may become available about the definition of downstream uses. RIP 3.2 (Generating CSR) is dealing with this subject, but will not be finished before June 2007. It is expected that once the guidance is finished these questionnaires will be updated accordingly.

- This questionnaire forms the first element in an exchange of information both up and down the supply chain. Further information on use and exposure categories may need to be completed for some products. If this is the case further specific questionnaires will be sent to the supplier.

Further background information on the REACH Regulation and the terminology/ definitions in the questionnaire is available in national and industry-specific supporting materials and from helpdesks (e.g. those provided by the national or European associations and Competent Authorities).

Thank you for your cooperation in supplying this information.

Contact Details:

Business/supply chain contacts to be inserted