

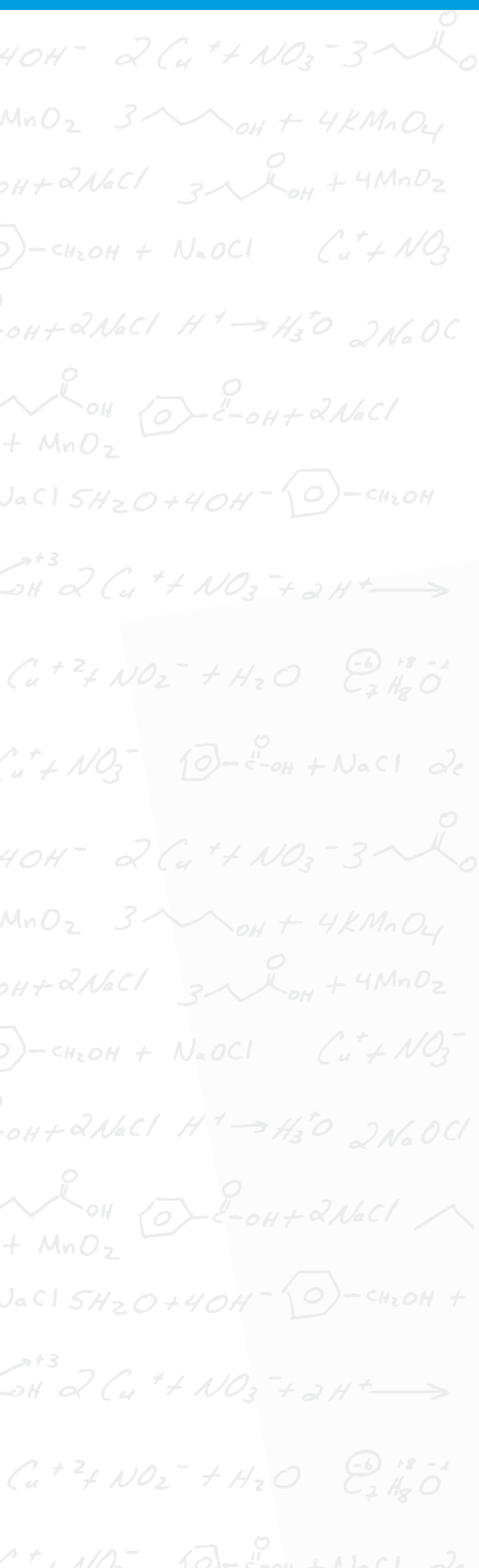


# REACH – 15 questions which concern you

## A Guide for Downstream Users



# REACH – 15 questions which concern you



## 1. WHY DOES REACH CONCERN ME?

- Do you use chemicals, metals, plastics or natural products?
- Do you use varnishes, adhesives, detergents or cosmetics commercially?

If the answer to one of these questions is yes, then this folder is relevant to you. REACH is the name of a EU regulation on chemicals, which came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2007.

## 2. WHAT IS MEANT BY CHEMICALS?

- substances
- mixture (of two or more substances)
- substances in articles

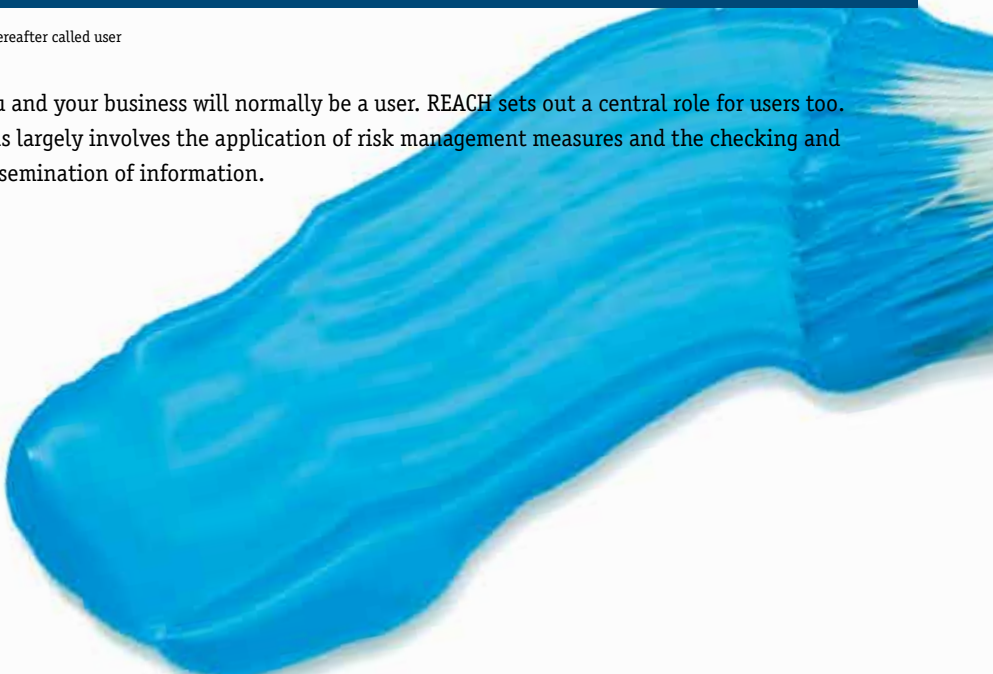
## 3. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF REACH?

The responsibility for the safe use of substances is to be increasingly spread across all business sectors. REACH applies to manufacturers, importers, distributors and also users of chemicals, known as downstream users.

<b>Manufacturers and / or importers</b> of an individual substance, in a mixture or in an article
<b>Downstream user *)</b> manufacturer of mixtures or (end)-user (industrial or professional)
<b>Distributor</b>

\*) hereafter called user

You and your business will normally be a user. REACH sets out a central role for users too. This largely involves the application of risk management measures and the checking and dissemination of information.



#### 4. WHEN AM I A USER?

If you use chemicals for industrial or professional purposes, you are essentially always a user. This relates, on the one hand, to your immediate role as a business person and, on the other hand, to other areas of your business, e.g. detergents or printer cartridges.

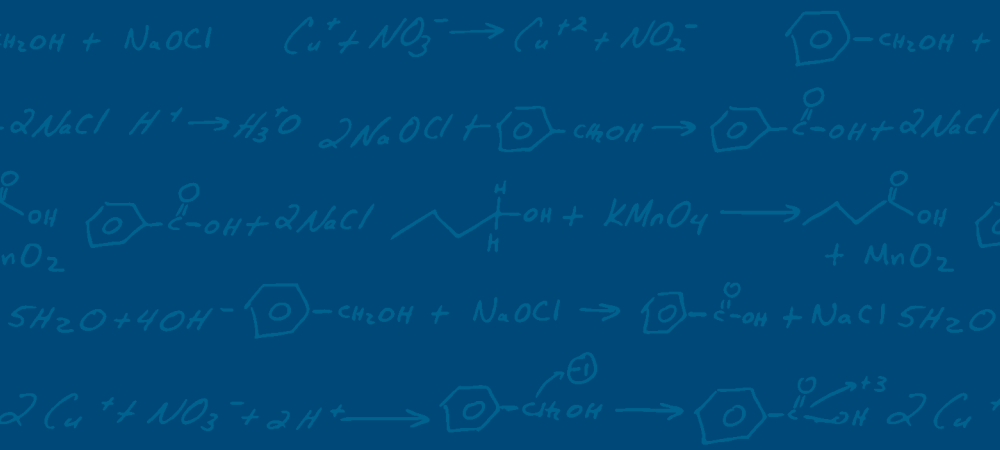
#### 5. WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO AS A USER?

- Check the **safety data sheet** of your supplier.
- If you notice any shortcomings on it, inform your supplier.
- Implement recommended **risk management measures** (e. g. protective equipment, ventilation or similar measures)
- Ensure your **use** is covered by the registration of the substance.
- Save all information received for at least 10 years.

#### 6. WHAT ELSE MIGHT APPLY TO ME?

- If your supplier does not account for your purpose of use...  
... notify **your** supplier of your **use** of the substance.
- If your supplier refuses to register your use for health or environmental protection reasons...  
... you either have to find another supplier to support your use, or  
... carry out your own notification of the specific use. (**In certain circumstances** you will require your own **chemical safety report**.)
- If you manufacture mixture...  
... produce your own **safety data sheet** for each mixture and pass it onto your customers.
- If you observe something unexpected, such as a new hazard, in relation to a individual substance or a mixture ...  
... notify your supplier of this.





## 7. HOW DO I RETAIN MY USER STATUS?

You remain a user in each of the following situations:

- if you use substances supplied within the EU.
- if you use mixtures supplied within the EU.
- if you inform yourself accurately about imported articles.

## 8. WHEN AM I NOT OBLIGATED TO REGISTER?

- If you manufacture or import **less than** 1 t of a substance per year.
- If you create a mixture out of registered substances.
- If you obtain substances or mixtures within the EU, regardless of the supplied amount.

Please note that Switzerland is not a member of the European Union.

## 9. WHEN DO I HAVE TO REGISTER?

- If you manufacture 1 t or more of a substance per calendar year.
- If you import 1 t or more of a substance (on its own or as a component of a mixture) from outside the EU per calendar year.

## 10. WHAT IS THE REGISTRATION?

Registrations are carried out by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki. A technical dossier must always be submitted. For volumes of over 10 t of a substance per calendar year an additional comprehensive chemical safety report must be attached. Please note that a registration is a very expensive and complicated procedure.

## 11. WHAT WAS THE PRE-REGISTRATION?

During the period from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 phase-in-substances could be pre-registered. Phase-in-substances are mainly „old substances“ with an EINECS-entry. A pre-registration opened the possibility to use transitional arrangements until up to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018. Now, a pre-registration is not possible anymore.







## 12. WHAT DO I DO IF I USE SUBSTANCES OF VERY HIGH CONCERN (SVHC)?

(e.g. substances with carcinogenic or mutagenic properties)

- Comply with all **restrictions**.
- Comply with all **prohibitions**.
- Comply with the conditions of **authorisation**.
- **Notify use** compliant with authorisation to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).
- Consider applying for your **own authorisation** if the supplier refuses to, or change suppliers.

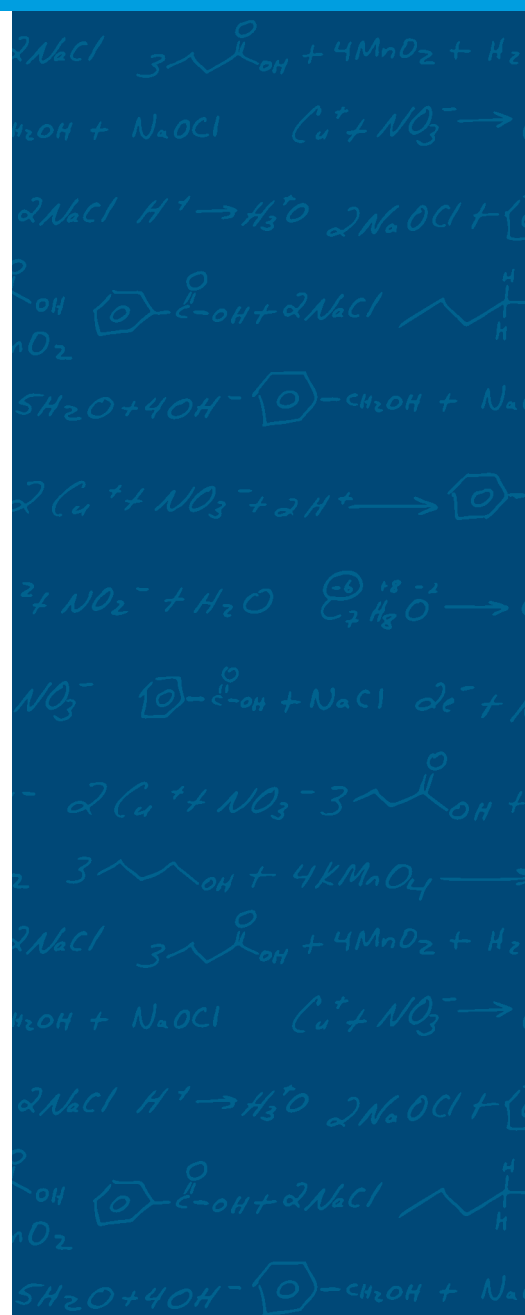
For substances which give cause for very high concern, an additional authorisation applies. Also restrictions may be possible for certain substances.

## 13. WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS FOR MY BUSINESS?

1. Determine who is responsible for the implementation of REACH within your company.
2. Find out which substances are used, also in mixtures and possibly in articles.
3. Check what these substances are used for.
4. If questions remain, ask your supplier.
5. Comply with the user requirements. You will find these under points 5 and 6.

## 14. WHAT DOES THE ABBREVIATION REACH STAND FOR?

Registration  
Evaluation  
Authorisation of  
Chemicals





## 15. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBSTANCES TO BE REGISTERED AND WHEN WILL I RECEIVE THE REGISTRATION NUMBERS?

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2008, without pre-registration, all substances must be fully registered immediately. With a pre-registration transitional periods for a full registration were possible. This periods were based on the volume and substance properties.

Substances > 1000 t/a	November, 30 <sup>th</sup> 2010
Substances classified as R50 / 53 > 100 t/a or CMR Cat. 1&2 > 1 t/a	November, 30 <sup>th</sup> 2010
Substances 100 – 1000 t/a	May, 31 <sup>st</sup> 2013
Substances 1 – 100 t/a	May, 31 <sup>st</sup> 2018

Once a substance has been registered, the registration number will be included in the safety data sheet. A safety data sheet has to be provided only for hazardous substances or preparations.

**You want more information about the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber?**

[www.wko.at](http://www.wko.at)

**You need additional information on REACH?**

[www.wko.at/reach](http://www.wko.at/reach)

**Is there a contact person for REACH?**

Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, Department of Environment and Energy Policy  
Dr. Marko Sušnik, phone: +43 (0)5 90 900-4393, e-mail: [marko.susnik@wko.at](mailto:marko.susnik@wko.at)



Supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour.



This folder was produced in cooperation with the WIFI SME Support Center of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber. More information: [www.unternehmerservice.at](http://www.unternehmerservice.at)



### IMPRESSUM

Medieninhaber und Herausgeber: WKÖ, WIFI, BMWA  
Für den Inhalt verantwortlich: DI Dr. Marko Sušnik; Abteilung für Umwelt- und Energiepolitik,  
1045 Wien, Wiedner Hauptstraße 63; T +43 (0)5 90 900-4393  
Grafik: design.ag, [www.designag.at](http://www.designag.at); 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (January 2018)