

# An Overview of the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulations

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## Introduction

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The Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulations were introduced in 2007. As an EU Regulation it aims to reduce the impact of chemical substances on human health and the environment by increasing understanding of chemicals and also allows the free movement of chemicals in the EU market. The responsibility of managing risk and providing safety information regarding chemicals has been placed on the producer.

## Who is affected?

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Requirements fall to “manufacturers / importers” and “downstream users”. Manufacturers / importers include organisations which:

- Manufacture or import chemicals substances or mixtures
- Process chemicals or create mixtures for end use, e.g. cleaning products, paints or motor oils
- Produce or import goods which contain chemicals (known as “articles of no release”) e.g. construction materials, toys or electronic components
- Produce or import goods which contain chemicals which are released during their use (known as “articles of intended release”) e.g. scented candles, nicotine patches, aerosols

Downstream users include organisations which are:

- Formulators
- Producers of articles
- Re-fillers
- Re-importers
- End users (for example organisations which use chemicals within the workplace, which includes cleaning products)

Please be aware that if a substance is subject to registration under REACH or is classified as hazardous you may have notification obligations under the Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures (CLP).

## What do you need to do?

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The requirements are dependent on whether the organisation is a manufacture / importer or downstream user. For manufacture / importers the requirements may also vary dependent on the substance:

- Register each substance manufactured or imported in quantities of more than 1 tonne per year
- Prepare a technical file about each substance
- Notify users about the safe use of each substance often by producing and making available Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)

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- Notify the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) if you are importing or manufacturing products which contain Substance of Very High Concern (SVHCs) – the list of SVHCs is reviewed and updated approx. every 6 months

Downstream users are required to:

- Provide information regarding their uses to suppliers of substances, this enables registrants to include these uses in the chemical safety assessment
- Implement measures specified by the supplier to ensure the safe use, or, take action
- Inform the supplier if they have new information on the hazards or risk management
- Take appropriate action if using a substance included in the Authorisation List or the List of Restrictions
- In addition, formulators must:
  - Provide customers with appropriate information on hazards and conditions of safe use for their mixture. Formulators also have obligations under CLP
- In addition, producers of articles must:
  - Take action on registration or notification and communicate information if required

## Contact us

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We offer a range of services to assist companies with REACH compliance. If you would like more information about how we can help you, please call us on **03450 682 572** or email [info@valpak.co.uk](mailto:info@valpak.co.uk).

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