

REACH

An introduction to the EU's new chemicals legislation for customers of AkzoNobel



AkzoNobel

Tomorrow's Answers Today



Let's work together

AkzoNobel has been working to meet its obligations under REACH for many years now.

As the sustainability leader in the chemical industry, we're well placed to support our customers, and our aim is clear – we want you to recognize us as a trusted REACH partner and leader in its practice.

Base Chemicals is one of the business units within AkzoNobel. In this brochure we will outline the process and how we are working to minimize the impact on your day-to-day business. We'll provide you with the right information at the right time, and our dedicated REACH team offers expert support to answer any questions you may have.

In the past it has not always been possible to obtain information on how chemicals are used downstream. The new REACH regulation means there is a strong incentive for information to be made available – which in turn allows AkzoNobel to improve its product stewardship.



About REACH



REACH – the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals regulation – came into effect in June 2007.

Who is affected?

Virtually everyone in the supply chain dealing with chemical substances.

It aims to safeguard human health and the environment, providing protection from exposure to chemicals. It will improve risk management, shifting responsibility to industry rather than the authorities, and increase knowledge about the properties and uses of substances.

There are obligations for manufacturers and importers of chemical substances based in the EU and for downstream users who process chemicals, produce preparations or use the formulated products in their businesses.

REACH replaces numerous existing EU regulations and covers chemical substances that are intended to be used both alone and in preparations.

All substances produced in excess of one ton per year are affected by the new regulation. There are exceptions for specific chemicals and for specific uses, such as in food and medicine. These uses are covered by other EU laws.

When will this happen?

REACH came into force in June 2007 and is a gradual process will take more than ten years to complete.

The major deadlines are:

June 1 – December 1, 2008
Pre-registration of substances with the newly-formed European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

January 1, 2009
Publication of pre-registered substances by ECHA

November 30, 2010
Registration deadline for: substances produced/imported >1000 tpa

May 31, 2013
Registration deadline for substances produced or imported >100 tpa

May 31, 2018
Registration deadline for substances produced or imported >1 tpa

In case of substances of very high concern the registration deadlines deviate from the above – see footnote 1.

What if substances aren't registered?

Quite simply, if substances and their uses aren't registered, we will no longer be allowed to manufacture and/or import them in the EU. We would no longer be able to produce them and provide them to our customers. So it's in everybody's interest that these deadlines are met.

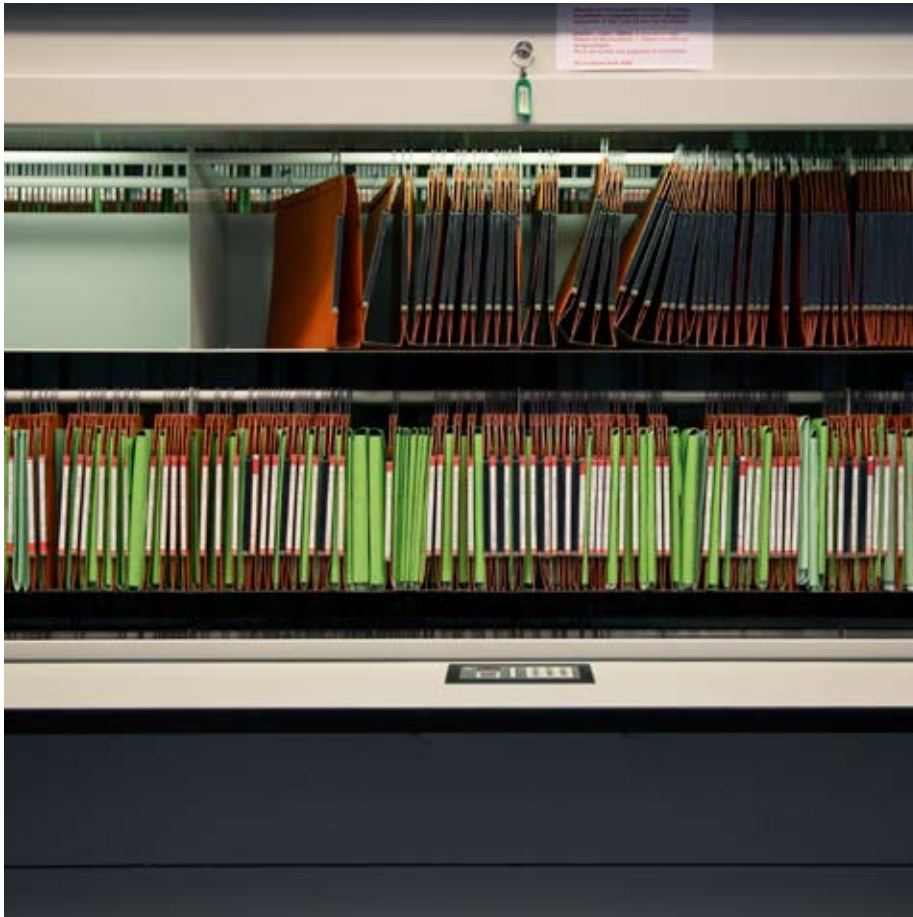
No data – no market!

Footnote 1

Substances of very high concern are defined in Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 ("the REACH Regulation") and include substances which are:

- Carcinogenic, Mutagenic or toxic to Reproduction (CMR), meeting the criteria for classification in category 1 or 2 in accordance with Directive 67/548/EEC,
- Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic (PBT) or very Persistent and very Bioaccumulative (vPvB) according to the criteria in Annex XIII of the REACH Regulation, and/or
- Identified, on a case-by-case basis, from scientific evidence as causing probable serious effects to human health or the environment of an equivalent level of concern as those above (e.g. endocrine disruptors)

REACH and AkzoNobel Base Chemicals



Our work so far

We've made efforts to talk to our suppliers to establish the position of the raw materials we use in regard to REACH.

We wanted to be sure that the substances we need for the production of our products for you would continue to be available – the last thing we want is for any link of the supply chain to break.

Our substances have been pre-registered. You can see an overview on the Base Chemicals website at <http://www.basechemicals.com/REACH/>

We're also producing our draft Exposure Scenarios, and we'll be talking to customers and trade associations to seek their views and refine them.

A dedicated team

AkzoNobel has set up a REACH Leadership Team with representatives from every business unit. This team identifies and agrees common approaches throughout AkzoNobel where necessary.

Each business unit has its own REACH team which includes people from all the functional areas involved in implementing the legislation. These are responsible for ensuring their businesses comply with REACH requirements.

Where necessary, they are supported by toxicologists and ecotoxicologists from our Technology and Engineering Group.

The teams provide expert back-up and ensure all relevant information is easily accessible. For more details, visit the website mentioned above.

REACH and our customers



What do you need to do now?

At the moment, nothing. Once we've pre-registered our substances, we'll contact you in the coming months to find out the uses you have for them.

We'll produce a list of categories for each substance we intend to register, and find out which one your use comes under. We'll also get in touch if we need to have any further discussions.

We're being very pro-active about REACH, which takes the pressure off you – instead of telling us about how you use our products, you just need to wait for us to ask.

Of course, if you have any questions about REACH or how the process works, you can talk to your sales contact at AkzoNobel.

What are your obligations under REACH?

As well as telling us how you use our substances when we ask you to, you need to verify your use is covered by the Exposure Scenario – see footnote 2.

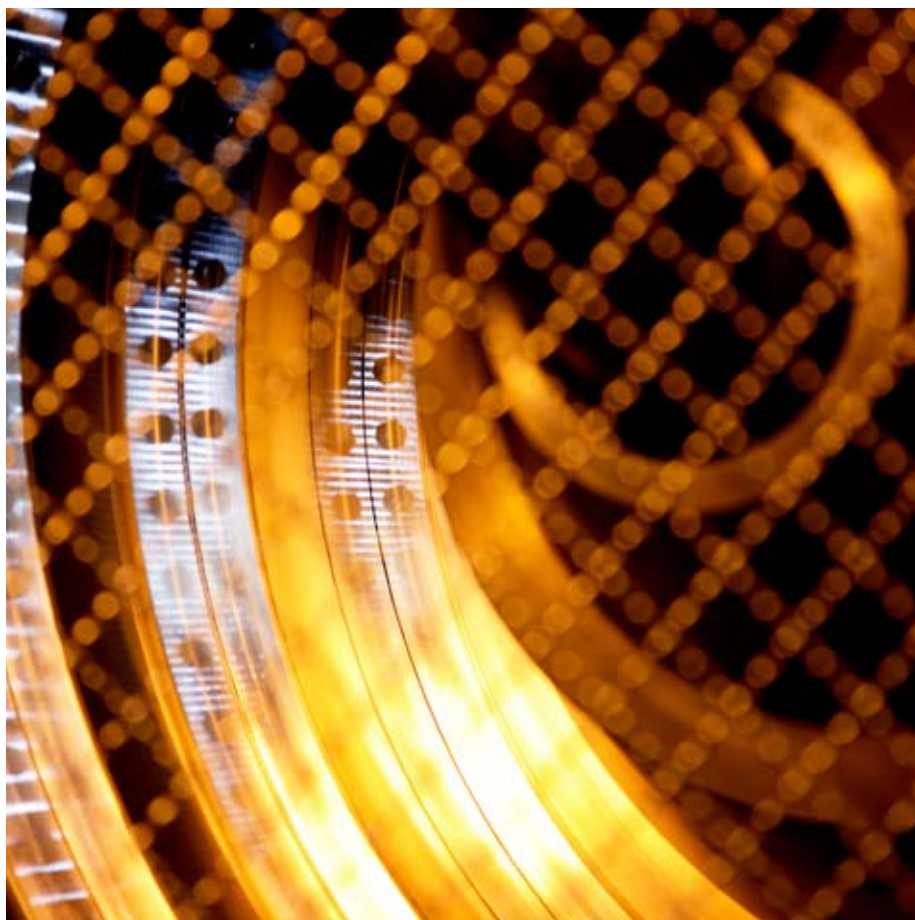
You'll need to put risk management measures in place, communicated via Safety Data Sheets, or carry out chemical safety assessments for any use outside the conditions the SDS describes.

Your customers should be informed of Exposure Scenarios via your SDS.

Footnote 2
(definition from REACH legislation)

An exposure scenario is the set of conditions that describe how the substance is manufactured or used during its life-cycle and how the manufacturer or importer controls, or recommends downstream users to control, exposures of humans and the environment. These sets of conditions contain a description of both the risk management measures and operational conditions which the manufacturer or importer has implemented or recommends to be implemented by downstream users. If the substance is placed on the market, the relevant exposure scenario(s), including the risk management measures and operational conditions shall be included in an annex to the safety data sheet.

More information



If you have any questions about REACH, please talk to your sales contact at Base Chemicals, who will help you with your query.

Alternatively, visit the REACH section of the Base Chemicals website at <http://www.basechemicals.com/REACH/>

To keep up-to-date with other REACH developments, visit European Chemicals Agency at <http://echa.europa.eu>

EU member states have their own REACH helpdesks – find details at http://echa.europa.eu/reach/helpdesk/nationalhelp_contact_en.asp or contact your trade association.

Other useful websites

AkzoNobel business units with their own REACH web pages can be found at <http://www.akzonobel.com/sustainability/reach/>

CEFIC at <http://www.cefic.org/>

If you have questions, please contact our REACH Project Leader, Mrs. Lorette van de Mast or your regular AkzoNobel Base Chemicals contact person.

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