



HSE Information 21

AkzoNobel
Tomorrow's Answers Today

REACH: advice for customers exporting to the European Union

REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals), Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006, is now in force in all EU member states. AkzoNobel Powder Coatings serves customers outside the European Union, many of whom export finished goods (coated articles) to the EU. This sheet explains the implications of REACH for such customers.

Under REACH there is no requirement to register finished articles themselves. The following provisions apply to certain types of *substances* contained in articles:

- If an article contains a substance *intended to be released*, and totalling 1 tonne per year or more, its producer or importer must submit a **(pre-)registration** for that substance.
- If an article contains a *substance of very high concern* (SVHC) which is subject to authorisation, at $\geq 0.1\%$ and totalling at least 1 tonne per year, its producer or importer must submit a **notification** to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Information on the substance must also be supplied to recipients of the article.

A non-EU producer of articles can appoint an Only Representative to register and/or notify, as an alternative to the EU-based importers doing so.

For substances already being supplied into the EU as above, pre-registration had to be completed by 1 December 2008. Companies who supply a phase-in substance into the EU in quantities of ≥ 1 t.p.a. **for the first time** after that date may submit a late pre-registration, provided they do so within six months, and no later than 12 months before the relevant registration deadline.

Powder coated articles

In general our customers have **no registration or notification obligations** arising from the use of our powder coatings on articles.

Powder coatings are stoved at high temperatures for curing, during which the polymeric components react to form a densely crosslinked structure. During production the inert constituents are dispersed in the resins and become permanently encapsulated in the network at the curing stage. Under normal circumstances no release of any solid, liquid or gaseous substance is therefore possible from a powder coated article.

[If however you buy a powder coating product from us which is specifically designed to release a substance from the cured film (for example, a fragrance or anti-bacterial agent), registration will be necessary: please consult your local AkzoNobel representative for information on the released substance.]

On 28 October 2008 ECHA published the first Candidate List comprising 15 SVHC. On 7 December 2009 it announced 15 further substances to be added to the List in January 2010. **We do not knowingly or intentionally use any of these substances in our products.** In this respect we rely upon the information from our upstream suppliers, since we do not carry out routine analytical testing of incoming raw materials.

We will continuously monitor all future additions to the SVHC list, and if necessary work to ensure that our products are free from these substances.

Under REACH there is no obligation for us to disclose information on the ingredients of our products, apart from released substances or SVHC as above. Full composition details are not required for export of coated articles to the EU. We will naturally continue to communicate information on any dangerous substances present in our products by means of our safety datasheets (SDS). In the event of any regulatory query regarding the powder coating, our SDS may be submitted to the relevant authorities.

Supply of powder coatings to the EU

Customers located outside the EU, who buy powder coatings from our non-EU businesses, may have affiliates within the EU who wish to use the same powder as the non-EU site.

For powder to be applied in Europe, we can only guarantee our products are compliant with REACH if they are supplied directly by us in the EU. If you buy a product from us outside the EU and then transport it into the EU (in quantities exceeding 1 tonne per year), your EU company would have registration obligations as an **importer** of chemical substances. However as we do not normally disclose proprietary formulation information, compliance with REACH obligations would not be possible.

We are committed to offering a product range which meets both the needs of our customers and the requirements of REACH. If your EU affiliate needs a matching product, we would be pleased to supply this to them directly in the EU, where we have a number of factories able to manufacture REACH-compliant products. Please ask your EU company to contact its local AkzoNobel Powder Coatings representative.

Important note

The information in this sheet is not intended to be exhaustive and is based on the present state of our knowledge and on current laws: any person using a product for any purpose other than that specifically recommended in the technical data sheet without first obtaining written confirmation from us as to the suitability of the product for the intended purpose does so at his own risk. It is always the responsibility of the user to take all necessary steps to fulfil the demands set out in the local rules and legislation. Always read the Material Data Sheet and the Technical Data Sheet for the product if available. All advice we give or any statement made about the product by us (whether in this sheet or otherwise) is correct to the best of our knowledge but we have no control over the quality or the condition of the substrate or the many factors affecting the use and application of the product. Therefore, unless we specifically agree in writing otherwise, we do not accept any liability whatsoever for the performance of the product or for any loss or damage arising out of the use of the product. All products supplied and technical advice given are subject to our standard terms and conditions of sale. You should request a copy of this document and review it carefully. The information contained in this sheet is subject to modification from time to time in the light of experience and our policy of continuous development. It is the user's responsibility to verify that this sheet is current prior to using the product.

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