Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Compliance

Applies to:

SAP REACH Compliance

Summary

Chemicals have always been a boon for Human development but its negligent use has been proved as a bane for Human lives and Environment. This article briefs one of the measures to regulate the usage of chemicals: REACH. (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals).It also gives an overview of SAP Reach Compliance.

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REACH Compliance

Everything in the world is made of chemicals, whether naturally occurring or synthesized by humans. Most of the ways we use chemicals are beneficial, the role of chemicals in the Green Revolution throughout the globe is impeccable. But sometimes knowingly or unknowingly then can cause huge destructions.

Hence it's absolutely essential to regulate the usage of chemicals.

REACH is the Regulation for **R**egistration, **E**valuation, **A**uthorization and Restriction of **Ch**emicals. It entered into force on 1st June 2007 to streamline and improve the former legislative framework on chemicals of the European Union (EU). REACH places greater responsibility on industry to manage the risks that chemicals may pose to the health and the environment.

In principle REACH applies to all chemicals: not only chemicals used in industrial processes but also in our day-to-day life, for example in cleaning products, paints as well as in articles such as clothes, furniture and electrical appliances

Aims of REACH:

The aims of REACH are to:

- Improve the protection of human health and the environment from the risks that can be posed by chemicals

- Enhance the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry, a key sector for the economy of the EU

- Promote alternative methods for the assessment of hazards of substances

- Ensure the free circulation of substances on the internal market of the European Union.

REACH Processes:

Pre-registration

Manufacturers and importers must pre-register substances that are already on the EU market (so-called phase-in substances), if they want to benefit from transitional arrangements that allow registering them at a later stage. Pre-registration also enables registrants to share data with other registrants and avoid carrying out redundant tests. The pre-registration period is limited from 1 June 2008 to 1 December 2008.

Registration

REACH requires manufacturers and importers of chemical substances (≥1 tonne/year) to obtain information on the physicochemical, health and environmental properties of their substances and use it to determine how these substances can be used safely. Each manufacturer and importer must submit a registration dossier documenting the data and assessments to the Agency.

Evaluation

The Agency will perform dossier evaluation to assess testing proposals made by the registrant or to check that the registration dossiers comply with the requirements. The Agency will also co-ordinate substance evaluation, which will be conducted by the Member States to investigate chemicals of concern.

Authorization

Authorization will be required for the prioritized substances of very high concern that are included in Annex XIV

Companies applying for authorization will have to demonstrate that risks associated with uses of these substances are adequately controlled or that the socio-economic benefits from their use outweigh the risks.

Applicants will also have to investigate the possibility of substituting theses substances with safer alternatives or technologies, and prepare substitution plans, if appropriate.

Restriction

The European Union can impose restrictions and prohibit or set conditions for the manufacture, placing on the market or use of certain dangerous substances or group of substances when unacceptable risks to humans or the environment have been identified.

Classification and labeling inventory

A classification and labeling inventory will be developed from notifications submitted by industry on substances classified as dangerous (including those below 1 tonne/year) and from information on classification and labeling included in registration dossiers.

Communication in the supply chain

Suppliers of substances must pass on information on the health, safety and environmental properties and safe use of their chemicals to their downstream users .Downstream users may only use substances classified as dangerous or which are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic if they apply risk management measures identified on the basis of exposure scenarios for their use.

Impact on your Business

1. Registration of substances and collaboration in SIEFS

REACH requires the registration of substances per legal entity. To coordinate all registration and testing activities for specific substances the regulation advises that manufacturers and importers organize themselves into Substance Information Exchange Forums (SIEFs). In the SIEFs the companies exchange information and data, e.g. testing results, and they regulate cost trade-offs. Thus the collaboration in the SIEFs requires effective communication.

2. Save use of substances

Additionally, you have to comply with the safe usage conditions of the products containing the registered substance. This means: you have to continuously monitor the affected processes and ensure the compliance with the requirements, and risk management. This is why you need functionalities for material, substance and usage management that support you in efficiently managing all REACH-relevant substances of your company, e.g. concerning the substance properties as well as usage and exposure scenarios.

3. Communication in the supply chain

In addition to registering and obtaining authorization for the substances used in your own company's products, you must document and submit for registration the uses of those substances throughout the whole supply chain. This means that accountable communication with your customers and your suppliers will become a cornerstone for your success.

SAP Reach Compliance

With the requirements of REACH legislation, you now face the burden of proving the safety of the substances, products – and consumer use – of those substances and products that you manufacture and import. Documentation of proof must conform to a specific set of guidelines to gain authorization, registration – and ultimately, the right to trade your new product. No proof, no business.

The SAP REACH Compliance application helps you meet product and material compliance regulations for all industries and secure your right to market your products. You can:

- Address critical business requirements for product and material compliance regulations such as the registration, evaluation, and authorization of chemicals (REACH) legislation; the international material data system (IMDS); the directive on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS); and the directive on waste from electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).

- Collect and process product and material compliance data automatically.

- Carry out simple, transparent, and secure product and material registration at minimized costs.

- Manage critical timelines.

- Coordinate internal and external stakeholders and automate communication with customers and suppliers and improve internal communications.

- Ensure visibility and transparency on the compliance status of materials, parts and products internal and to external partners.

- Streamline product and material compliance by integration of business processes and alignment of business objectives.

- Document product content and regulatory or sector-specific substance lists, integrate compliance checks and analyses into central business processes.

SAP REACH Compliance integrates with companies' existing enterprise resource planning, supply chain management and SAP® Environment, Health & Safety applications. The solution from SAP and TechniData also supports third-party software for authoring chemical-safety assessments, chemical-safety reports and standard EU REACH exchange formats, such as the IUCLID 5 solution.

Key functionalities of SAP REACH Compliance include:

Substance and Usage Management

- Manage data and track chemicals used in particular preparations, products and requisite documents, including chemical-safety assessments, chemical-safety reports and enhanced material-safety data sheets.

- Evaluate current REACH status, track quantities of single substances for a single legal entity or monitor substances on a corporate level covering multiple legal entities, and identify and rectify any compliance gaps.

Supply Chain Collaboration

- Electronic information exchange of processes involved in REACH-related supply chain communication, supported by material-safety data sheets and questionnaire-based communication for use and exposure scenarios.

- Supplier and customer communication data tracking, including how customers use a product in order to draw up exposure scenarios for substances, and initiate follow-up activities based on deadlines and business-partner responses.

Legal Process Management for REACH

- Organize and monitor all authority-related processes, including registration, notification and authorization.

- Collaborate document management between internal and external groups to expedite registration management, keeping business processes transparent, reliable and viewable in real-time.

- Plan on detailed substance and full substance-portfolio management levels to control costs, coordinate activities and successfully register substances and receive authorization with REACH authorities.

Related Content

[SAP REACH COMPLIANCE](#)

[European Chemicals Agency, REACH Guidance.](#)

[TECHNIDATA : Chemical Compliance](#)

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