

**UPDATE ON REACH IMPLEMENTATION
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- REACH entered into force 1 June 2007.
- Main obligations in force 01/06/07-01/06/08 = communication in the supply chain (obligation to provide information on dangerous substances to customers, e.g. via Safety Data Sheets)
- Most obligations (related to registration, authorisation, etc) started to apply on 1st June 2008

ECHA ACTIVITIES

- 1st June 07 : **Opening** of ECHA
- **1st June 07 → 1st June 08 : Preparatory activities**
 - Recruitment and training of staff
 - Management Board: appointment of members and first meetings
 - Helpdesk(s): The ECHA helpdesk runs since 01/06/07 for questions related to registration or the IT-tools, + a network of all the Member States helpdesks has been established.
 - Guidance: The Commission was responsible for drafting the first version of the guidance documents. As ECHA became operational, they became more and more involved in the process of development of the guidance. Once guidance documents are finalised, it is handed over to ECHA, which is responsible for making it publicly available and, later on, updating it if necessary. This has already been done for most of the guidance documents, which are now available on ECHA's website: <http://echa.europa.eu/>
 - IT Tools: ECHA has also been finalising the IT-Tools that are necessary for industry and Member States for the practical implementation of REACH, namely REACH-IT and IUCLID5, and made them available. The IT-Tools were ready on time, however only limited features of REACH-IT were available on 01/06/08, and temporary procedures were foreseen for industry to be able to comply with some of their obligations of registration or notification to the Agency.
 - Standard Operating Procedures / workflows: During the preparatory phase, ECHA has been planning their work and establishing their working procedures.
 - Establishment of the Committees + first meetings: ECHA established its committees, appointed their members and started the work, consistin gat first mainly in establishing rules of procedures, planning the work and establishing working procedures.
- **1st June 08** : ECHA became fully operational
- 3 June 08: Official **inauguration** of ECHA, in presence of Mr Barroso, Verheugen, EP Vice-President, Finnish Prime Minister.
- Started on June 1st, 08 / **tasks of ECHA under REACH:**
 - Pre-registration, registration, PPORD notifications
 - Proposals for substances of very high concern, C&L notification/harmonisation
 - Examination of testing proposals / checking compliance of dossiers
 - Other ECHA tasks – Authorisation and restrictions
- **Committees:**
 - Risk Assessment Committee: Provides opinions on proposals for restrictions, proposals for harmonised classification and labelling, and authorisation applications by industry
 - Socio-Economic Analysis Committee: Provides opinions on proposals for restrictions, and authorisation applications by industry

- Member States Committee: Responsibilities in substance evaluation, evaluation of testing proposals, and proposals for identification of substances of very high concern to be listed on the candidate list.
- **Forum** (network of enforcement authorities): meetings on Dec 07 and May 08.
Key topics discussed so far:
 - Closer collaboration needed enforcers / customs authorities
 - Working programme
 - o Information exchange system
 - o Coordinated projects and guidance
 - Enforcement issues
- **REACH at start-up:**
 - REACH-IT went live on 31 May at 21:15
 - First company signed-up after 15 minutes
 - 1.286 pre-registrations on 1 June 2008
 - + Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein also joined the territory of applicability of REACH, and were connected to the REACH-IT system on 4 June
 - After two weeks:
 - Over 1.600 Legal entities had signed up, from all EU MS
 - 8.500 pre-registrations (5.500 substances)
 - Other submissions
 - 143 PPORD - 38 Inquiries - 20 Registrations
 - 30% of the data submissions prepared locally by using IUCLID 5 passed all steps of the submission process
i.e. format verification, submission form correctly filled and completeness check

The Commission assisted the preparatory activities and start-up throughout.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

1) Implementation

- Guidance
- Specific questions requiring interpretation (e.g. waste, OR), support to helpdesk network
- Communication:
 - o Awareness-raising activities, triggered by the concern that at this stage many companies are still not aware of the obligations that apply to them. This includes advertising, press activities, and the organisation of a workshop held on 14 April, which counted 400 participants. Presentation and recordings (the event was webstreamed) are available on our website: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/events_en.htm
 - o Participation at conferences organised by stakeholders to provide information/explanations about REACH

2) Legal aspects

- **Implementing regulations**
 - Board of Appeal qualification: adopted oct 07
 - Fee Regulation: adopted April 08
 - Test Methods Regulation: adopted May 08
 - On-going: rules of procedures for the Board of Appeal
 - On-going: review of REACH annexes (e.g. Annexes IV and V), under Comitology procedure.
- **GHS**