



REACH STATEMENT

On 1st June 2007 the new REACH (Registration-Evaluation-Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) European Chemical Regulations was set forth.

As REACH is a new system in chemicals since 2007, these regulations are aimed primarily at ensuring a high level of health and environmental protection through the secure handling of chemicals. Its aims are to provide a high level of protection of human health and the environment from the use of chemicals; and to make the people who place chemicals on the market responsible for understanding and managing the risks associated with their use. Our company also supports this scheme. An other aim of REACH is to improve the exchange of information along the supply chain. As a downstream user, we are currently gathering and passing on to our suppliers the required information on all occasions requested.

Substances (individually or in preparations) must be pre-registered with the new European Chemicals Agency during the period 1st June to 30th November 2008. Any chemical that is manufactured in quantities of 1 tonne per year or more is covered by REACH. There are only a few exceptions.

In the European Chemicals Agency ECHA's "Guidance on Requirements for Substances in Articles" (May 2008) our products are clearly defined as products. As a downstream user and manufacturer of products, we are not bound to register. 'Chemical' means an individual substance, not combinations (mixtures, formulations, preparations) of two or more substances. Polymers as the main elements of our products are for the moment excluded from the obligation to register.

Under REACH regulations we are not required to issue registration for our products, as these are to be stored only for substances and preparations. As things are stated at present in REACH, during the pre-registration and registration phase there are no restrictions on the raw materials that we use.