

REACH

[REACH Regulation \(EC\) No. 1907/2006](#) is designed to manage and control the potential hazards and risks to human health and the environment from the manufacture, import and use of chemicals within the EU and at the same time enhances the competitiveness of European industry by fostering innovation. REACH is an acronym for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of CHemicals. A fourth stage of REACH is restriction.

The REACH Regulation gives greater responsibility to industry to manage the risks from chemicals and to provide safety information on the substances. Enterprises which manufacture or import more than one tonne of a chemical substance per year will be required to register it in a central database administered by the new European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

The Agency, which is located in Helsinki, will act as the central point in the REACH system; it will run the databases necessary to operate the system, co-ordinate the in-depth evaluation of suspicious chemicals and run a public database in which consumers and professionals can find hazard information. The Agency will therefore manage and in some cases carry out the technical, scientific and administrative aspects of REACH so as to ensure consistency at Community level in relation to these aspects. The Agency shall provide the Member States and the Institutions of the Community with the best possible scientific and technical advice on questions relating to chemicals covered by the Regulation.

The Regulation also calls for the progressive substitution of the most dangerous chemicals when suitable alternatives have been identified.

REACH came into force on 1st June 2007 however the main titles of REACH will become enforced as from 1st June 2008 so as to allow a one-year period for the establishment of ECHA.

The following Legal Notices implement the requirements of this Regulation:

1. The Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulations, 2008 (*Legal Notice 61 of 2008*)
2. Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals Enforcement (E-REACH) Committee Regulations, 2008
3. Chemicals Co-ordinating Committee (Repeal) Regulations, 2008

Further guidance on REACH can be found on the [ECHA website](#). For any other information or advice you can always contact the REACH helpdesk at the MSA via the following email: helpdesk.msa@msa.org.mt