

Frequently Asked Questions on Dangerous Substances & Preparations

1. What type of chemical products are manufactured and used within the EU?

The European chemicals industry manufacture uses a large number of different chemical products. The majority of all chemicals on the European market are preparations - i.e. mixtures of chemical substances. They include industrial chemicals, such as solvents and coatings; petrochemicals, such as fuels and lubricants; agricultural chemicals such as pesticides; consumer products, such as detergents and disinfectants, and many others. Whereas the majority of these chemicals are of low concern for human health or the environment, some of them have properties that are hazardous to human health and/or the environment.

2. Is there any piece of legislation which aims to achieve a high level of protection of human health and the environment from chemicals?

There are two key pieces of legislation which aim at achieving a high level of protection from chemicals by requiring the producers of chemicals:

- to identify the intrinsic hazards of the chemicals they manufacture or import (i.e. to "classify" chemicals according to their dangers such as flammability, toxicity, carcinogenicity);
- to label these chemicals according to strict rules (i.e. warnings about the dangers and safety advice);
- and to package them safely.

LN 318 of 2001 (The Dangerous Substances (Notification) Regulations, 2001), as amended, sets out harmonised EU rules for the: notification of substances; exchange of information on notified substances; assessment of the potential risk to man and the environment of notified substances; classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous chemical substances.

LN 10 of 2007 (Dangerous Substances and Preparations Regulations, 2007) extends these rules to dangerous preparations.

3. What is covered by the "Classification & Labelling" legislation?

The two pieces of "classification and labelling" legislation, i.e. LN 318 of 2001 (as amended) and LN 10 of 2007 (as amended), concern themselves with only the assessment of the intrinsic hazards of chemicals. These do not cover certain special types of chemicals - such as medicines, cosmetics and foodstuffs - for which stricter control regimes exist.

Another piece of legislation, i.e. LN 40 of 2002 (Dangerous Substances (Risk Assessment) Regulations, 2002), concerns itself with the tasks of the assessment of risks from chemicals

and their control. REACH Regulation (EC) No [1907/2006](#) as from 1st August 2008 will repeal LN 40 of 2002.

4. To which piece of legislation may one be referred to so as to be guided while compiling safety data sheets?

LN 393 of 2002 concerning the Dangerous Substances and Preparations (Safety Data Sheets) Regulations, 2002, has been repealed by the REACH Regulation (EC) No [1907/2006](#) which entered into force on 1 June 2007.

The relevant provisions under the REACH Regulation can be found in [Title IV](#) (Information in the Supply chain), and [Annex II](#) (Guide to the Compilation of Safety Data Sheets).

5. Are there any restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations?

Some substances and preparations are not considered dangerous and circulate freely on the European market without any particular rules. Others are classified as dangerous and can circulate freely only when packaged and labelled in accordance with LN 318 of 2001 (for dangerous substances) or LN 10 of 2007 (for dangerous preparations). In a relatively small number of cases the rules for classification, packaging and labelling are insufficient to reduce risks and must be supplemented by rules to restrict marketing and use under the LN concerning restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations, i.e. LN 346 of 2003 as amended. Substances falling under LN 346 of 2003 are listed in the First Schedule to those regulations which also specifies the restrictions on marketing and use applying in each particular case.

[Annex XVII](#) of REACH Regulation No 1907/2006/EC will replace LN 346 of 2003 (as amended) on 1 June 2009 (current version, which will be updated prior to that date).

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