

Regulation (EG) 1907/2006 – REACH

In reply to your enquiry we would like to provide you with the following information regarding the REACH Regulation:

The Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) entered into force on 1 June 2007.

Registration

Under the REACH Regulation, all substances (as such and in preparations), which are manufactured or imported in volumes of 1 ton or more per year, have to be registered. For registration purposes, comprehensive data packages are required. Based on current state of knowledge, polymers and preparations as well as a few special substances are exempted from registration.

Registration will be carried out within the following periods after the regulation entered into force:

- Up to 3.5 years for substances with a production volume of >1000 t/year and for particularly dangerous chemicals, e.g. CMR substances
- Up to 11 years for substances with a production volume of 1-100 t/year

For all substances currently on the market, the registration process starts with a six-month period of pre-registration that must be finalised by Nov. 30th 2008. The pre-registration is followed by a transitional period that is allowed for the full registration of the material.

Masterbatch and Compound

Masterbatches and Compounds in regulatory terms are considered as preparations. A preparation has to be understood as a mixture of substances with different chemical identities.

Preparations can not be registered or pre-registered. A company that introduces a preparation to the EU market, however, has to make sure that all components of the preparation are pre-registered or registered. Without the pre-registration or registration of single substances, further sale of the preparation is no longer possible.

Accordingly, A. Schulman is taking all necessary measures to ensure pre-registration and registration of such materials. Since the pre-registration period ends Nov. 30th 2008, as of today it is not possible to give a definite statement if actually all substances will be pre-registered by our suppliers. Should it become apparent that some suppliers will not do any pre-registration, A. Schulman considers carrying out the pre-registration process itself.

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We expect that for all materials we can make use of the pre-registration period. The raw materials therefore should be available after Nov. 30th 2008. After the transitional period, further availability of the raw materials depends on the course of the registration process. At the moment it is not possible to make any final statement on future availability of raw materials beyond the transitional period.

Candidate list / Authorisation

Substances that are considered as especially dangerous for human beings and / or the environment will be subject to authorization. This means such materials will be listed on the candidate list for authorization. Should such materials be used for the production of one of the preparations supplied to you, we will automatically inform you. This is of relevance because a producer of a final article on request has to inform its customers if such substances are contained in the article. A list of concerned substances will not be published before end of 2008 by the ECHA. Till then and for a certain transitional period (which will be decided on substance specific basis) these substances can be used without any constraint. After this transitional period further use of these substances is possible only under specified conditions.

Already today it is clear that substances which are classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction (category 1 or 2) will be listed on the candidate list for authorization. If one of these substances is part of the preparation you use, you can learn from the existing safety data sheet of the preparation.

Furthermore other substances that are very persistent in the environment or organisms and some additional materials will be listed on the candidate list.

A final statement on if substances from the candidate list are used for the production of specific preparations can only be given only after publication of the list (planned end of 2008).

When substances are listed or proposed to be listed on the candidate list, A. Schulman intends to inform all customers who are using our preparations which contain such substances. At the moment (Aug. 2008) 16 substances have been proposed to be added to the candidate list.

Polymer

For polymers special rules apply under REACH. Polymers are exempted, therefore do not have to be pre-registered or registered. As long as the polymers contain only additives necessary to preserve the stability of the polymer, the polymer is still considered as a polymer not as a preparation. A standard polymer like a PP, which in addition to additives as mentioned above does not contain other substances, is not affected by REACH, so long as the monomers and catalysts used in its production are regulated.

Safety data sheet

The REACH regulation also includes provisions on safety data sheets (SDS). Now as in the past, the safety data sheet is the central instrument of communication between suppliers and customers where safety and uses for hazardous materials are concerned.

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Layout and content of the safety data sheet is clearly defined. In many cases exhaustive safety data sheets can be prepared only after the end of the transitional period for the individual substances. The safe use of substances based on current knowledge is described in the existing data sheets.

According to the requirements of REACH, in future safety data sheets will be supplemented by an annex describing exposures of humans and the environment (so-called exposure scenarios) during the use of a preparation.

These scenarios are intended to cover uses by our customers.

A risk assessment is necessary only for such substances or preparations that are classified as hazardous or contain hazardous substances that are declared in the safety data sheet.

For most polymers and compounds therefore no detailed information on the intended use has to be provided.

In special cases, it will be necessary for the preparation of exposure scenarios to obtain information on the uses of our materials by our customers. As soon as we know what information is needed, we will contact you.

Questionnaires

Please refrain from sending us any questionnaires concerning REACH. A. Schulman will not complete these since we cannot give you further information beyond the information given here. We depend on further documents to be finalised by the ECHA (e.g. candidate list). The information letter in your hands concerning REACH is updated continuously and adapted to latest knowledge.

A. Schulman's resources are dedicated to ensure we can continue to supply our customers with high quality products after the implementation of Reach. For this purpose we are in regular discussion with our suppliers and trade organisations.

We hope that the information herewith supplied is of use for you and remain at your disposal for further inquiries.

A. Schulman GmbH

Customer Service Support

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