

## Frequent Asked Questions on REACH

### REACH in general

#### **What does REACH stand for?**

REACH stands for **R**egistration, **E**valuation and **A**uthorisation of **C**hemicals. It completely restructures EU chemicals policy.

#### **What are the goals of REACH?**

The main objective is to protect human health and the environment by ensuring safe handling of chemicals throughout their lifecycle. The REACH Regulation is based on the principle of self-responsibility. In other words, chemicals may only be introduced if there is sufficient data on their properties (physical properties, toxicity, environmental impact, etc.). That makes producers and importers responsible for the safe handling of chemicals. They have to compile the data required for evaluation and make it available to all stages in the supply chain.

#### **What does that mean in practice?**

Users are required to provide extensive information for their suppliers and customers. For example, suppliers must be notified of all applications of the chemicals purchased. They are required to take these applications into account in their chemical safety report. Based on this evaluation, the revised and expanded safety data sheet must contain details of how to ensure safe handling of the substance.

#### **Haven't chemicals been tested in the past?**

REACH abandons the previous distinction between “existing chemicals” (i.e. products that were placed on the market before 1981) and new substances (introduced after 1981). New substances already have to be tested and evaluated for a range of risks to human health and the environment before they can be marketed. Unlike the roughly 4,000 ‘new’ substances, whose potential risks are known, very little is known about the approximately 100,000 substances defined as “existing chemicals”. REACH will alter that.

### REACH in detail

#### **Which substances will REACH affect?**

The new legislation applies to all chemical substances produced in the EU or imported in amounts of 1 tonne or more p.a. All chemicals that meet this criterion will have to be registered with the new European Chemicals Agency in Helsinki, Finland. The larger the quantity produced or imported, the more properties have to be evaluated. REACH does not require information on products that are not classified as hazardous and those where production is less than 10 tonnes p.a.

#### **Does REACH also apply to textiles imported into Europe?**

Finished products manufactured outside the EU are not subject to the legislation and under liberalised world trade agreements, they can be sold in Europe with virtually no restriction. Substances only have to be registered if use implies intentional release of the substance, for example, the ink used in a ballpoint pen.

#### **What is the deadline for registration?**

Relevant substances have to be registered between 2010 and 2018 to comply with the transitional arrangements set out in the REACH Regulation. The deadlines are between 3.5 and 11 years, depending on production volume and the properties of the substance.

### **Will REACH increase costs?**

A number of improvements to the original draft were achieved during the legislative process. Nevertheless, implementing REACH will be one of the major challenges facing the sector in the coming years. The chemical industry will have to spend an estimated EUR 2 billion on additional tests and the production of over 80,000 registration dossiers.

### **How will the new legislation affect safety data sheets in the short term?**

REACH introduced a new format for safety data sheets as of June 1, 2007. Since the main additional data will only be required once each substance has been fully registered, the current changes only affect the format: Section 2 Hazard Identification and Section 3 Composition/Information on Ingredients have been switched.

### **How will safety data sheets change in the long term?**

As part of the registration process, usage and exposure data on each substance will be added. DyStar's aim is to support the widest possible range of applications for all products and substances. If we do not include specific applications or exposure information, you will have 12 months from receipt of the new safety data sheet with the REACH registration number to notify us of the need to include such data. For the majority of our substances we expect a REACH registration number to be issued between 2011 and 2015. Any questions or comments on safety data sheets can be sent to [MSDS@DyStar.com](mailto:MSDS@DyStar.com).

### **Can I produce a substance safety report myself?**

You can produce your own substance safety report for a specific application and submit it to the European Chemicals Agency within 6 months. During this time, you can legally continue to use the substance for your specific application. Applications that were not previously listed can be included in the safety data sheet without difficulty even after registration.

## **DyStar and REACH**

### **Will DyStar be pre-registering all present substances?**

Yes, we will be pre-registering all substances produced in Europe and imported into Europe for which registration is required within the deadlines set.

### **How will DyStar be collaborating with customers on REACH?**

DyStar will be supporting its customers. We aim to merge and catalogue key data on chemicals and their conditions of use. In the long term, our goal is to establish a standardised basis for communication. That would greatly facilitate our combined efforts. It is important that everyone in the supply chain provides documentary evidence that wide-ranging action has been taken to prevent harm to people and the environment.

### **Will DyStar be withdrawing any products as a result of REACH?**

At present we do not plan to withdraw any products as a result of REACH. If there should be any changes in our products as a result of the registration process, which runs until 2018, we will inform our customers in good time and work with them to find solutions.