



Memo: Business & General Info

I.F.E.D.A. MEMBERS INFORMATION ADVICE/UPDATE

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REACH pre-registration: December 1st Deadline Looms

If your company is involved in the buying in of chemicals for manufacturing processes you need to be aware of the following:

There are only weeks to go before businesses face a mandatory obligation to register their use of chemicals.

Legislation for enforcing REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) was laid before Parliament on the 10 November, which will come into force when the pre-registration period ends and businesses must register their chemicals.

The Statutory Instrument (SI) laid before Parliament forms the legal framework of Regulations within which the enforcement authorities will operate. The Regulations establish in UK law the set of offences, and the penalties which the courts may impose, which can arise from non-compliance with REACH.

The SI identifies the enforcement authorities and gives them the powers they need - such as entering premises or asking for information. It also gives the authorities the powers to prosecute or issue a range of enforcement notices to help secure compliance with REACH.

The REACH enforcement authorities are:

- the HSE;
- the Health and Safety Executive of Northern Ireland (HSENI);
- the Environment Agency (EA);
- the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA);
- the Department of the Environment Northern Ireland (DoENI);
- local authorities (in respect of their health and safety and consumer protection roles); and
- the Secretary of State (meaning BERR, with its responsibility for offshore facilities).

Pre-registering the chemical substances they manufacture or import allows businesses to take advantage of the phased registration deadlines in REACH, which could mean not having to register in full until June 2018. Pre-registration also offers a chance to reduce registration costs.

If a business has not pre-registered their chemicals by 1 December, they will be forced to stop importing or manufacturing that until they have completed full registrations for them.

Environment Minister Huw Irranca-Davies says:

"REACH is a welcome change in the way chemicals are controlled and how their use is managed throughout the EU.

"Businesses must find out now whether REACH will affect them, as there are only weeks left before the end of the pre-registration period and the start of enforcement.

"Even if you don't think REACH applies to your business, check to make sure of that - many businesses rely on chemicals without realising it, and missing the pre-registration deadline of 1 December will not help your businesses meet legal requirements."

Comprehensive information on REACH is available on the UK REACH Competent Authority website at www.hse.gov.uk/reach

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