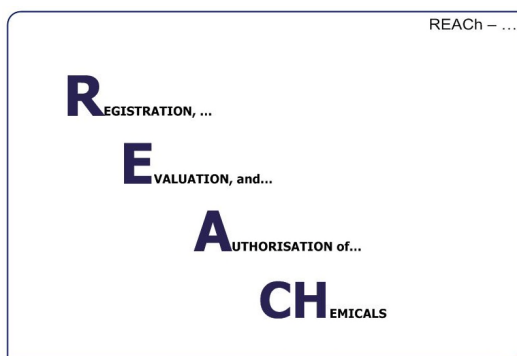


REACH – History

One of the European Union's objectives is to make the trade of chemical substances as safe as possible to protect consumers' health. For this purpose, the EU Commission introduced its so-called „White Paper” on chemicals policy already in 2001. This draft was adopted for the new European legislative framework REACH (standing for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) in 2003. Following a long legislative process accompanied by much controversy, the REACH regulation entered into force on June 1, 2007. Reversing the burden of proof, REACH places the responsibility for proving a chemical substance's safety on producers and importers in the EU. From this time onwards, they must convincingly demonstrate that their products can be safely handled and will not have adverse effects on downstream users' health nor the environment.



REACH – Safety Data Sheets

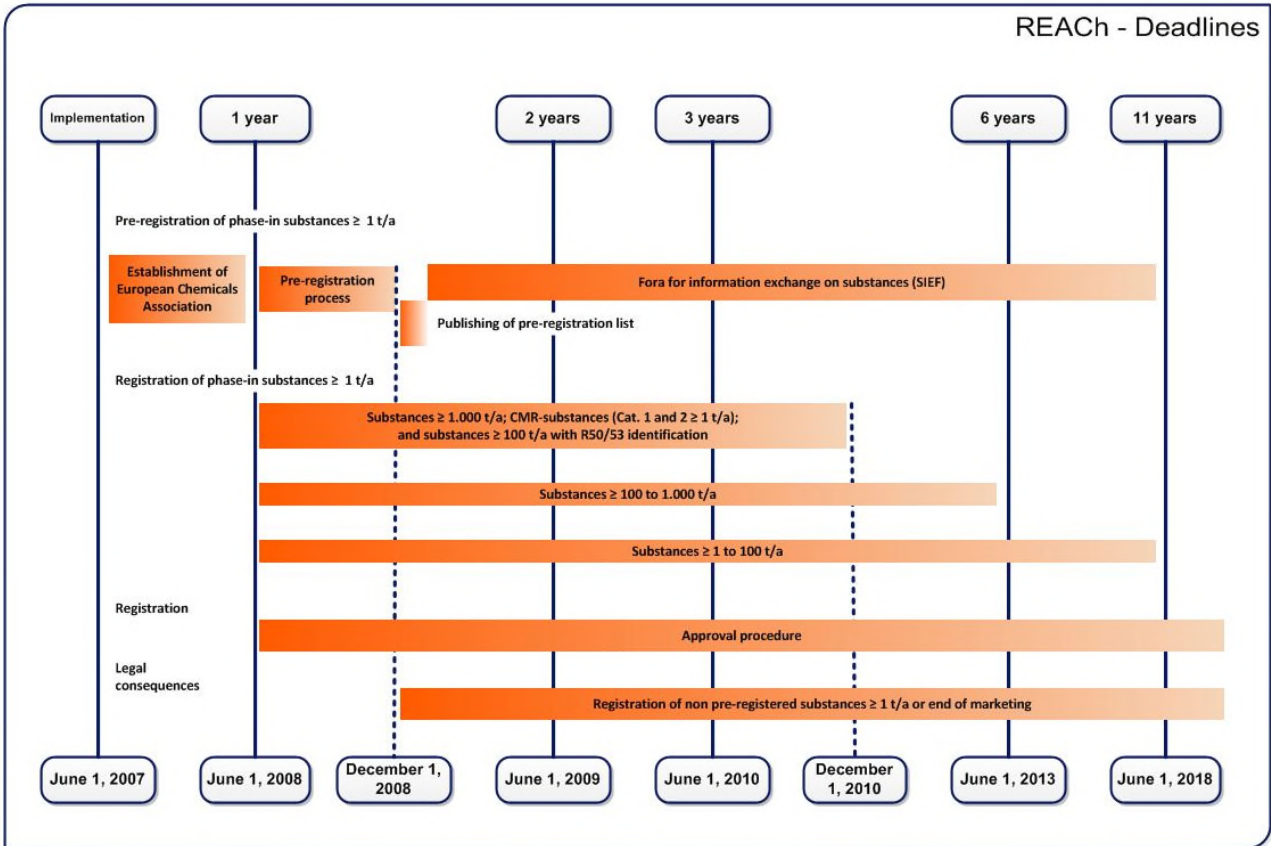
Since June 1, 2007, safety data sheets have to be established in accordance with Regulation 1907/2006 Article 31. Among others, this includes an editorial re-design (e.g. stating the e-mail address of a contact person and replacing chapters 2 and 3).

GB has been consecutively re-editing its safety data sheets. However, registration numbers and data from the chemical safety report can only be incorporated when the registration has been concluded. Upon request, it is possible to supply our customers with safety data sheets in almost all official EU languages.

REACH – Registration and Schedule

To do justice to this precautionary principle, REACH requires the registration of about 30,000 chemical substances sold on the European market. The registration must be done within a time span of 11 years. Without registration further use or marketing of these substances is prohibited. Anyone bringing chemicals on the European market, i.e. any producer or importer who produces or imports a chemical substance into the European Union in amounts of more than 1 ton per year, has to register it within the said 11-year period with the European Chemicals Agency – ECHA – in Helsinki. For this purpose, a technical dossier listing the substance's basic properties, its classification and labelling as well as the intended use and guidelines for safe handling has to be submitted. In addition, substances of very high concern (this includes substances that are carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic to reproduction as well those with bio-accumulative properties) will be subject to authorisation. This authorisation system will oblige companies to develop alternatives.

Depending on amounts (so-called tonnage bands), certain time limits for registration were put into place:



REACH – Obligations within the Supply Chain

