



Midwest Consortium for Hazardous Waste Worker Training

Funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences since 1987, through award U45 ESO6184.

For More Information Contact:
Linda Alerding
University of Cincinnati
Department of Environmental Health
PO Box 670056
Cincinnati, OH 45219-0056
Phone: (513) 558-0528
Fax: (513) 558-1722
alerdilr@ucmail.uc.edu

Created July 3, 2013; website active as of that date.

What is REACH?

(Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals)

In June 2007, the European Union (EU) implemented a system known as REACH to improve human and environmental health and safety through earlier and more thorough identification of the properties of chemicals.

Why REACH? For many years, chemicals were developed and marketed (even in large quantity) without sufficient information on hazards that might result to people or the environment.

REACH makes the manufacturer responsible for showing safety and describing the practices needed to assure safe handling. Manufacturers and importers must be able to provide data that verifies the safety of chemicals before marketing them. Therefore, US companies that export to the EU are affected, and cannot ship to the EU until approved through the REACH process. Raw material, mixtures and articles manufactured with chemicals are covered.

Key elements:

- Registration - Manufacturers and importers must provide information on chemicals to assure safe handling to the centralized data base at the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki, Finland.
- Evaluation – Information submitted to ECHA and evaluations by the EU Member State are considered in a multi-step process.
- Authorization– Certain hazardous chemicals must receive authorization before being manufactured or imported based on health and environmental hazards. A listing is maintained on the ECHA website.
- Restriction - A process is in place to restrict chemicals from manufacture or use in manufacturing.

As part of Evaluation, a Derived No-effect Level (DNEL) is determined. The DNEL is not an occupational exposure guideline.

When suitable alternative chemicals are identified, REACH provides a framework for substitution of the most dangerous chemicals.

REACH promotes hazard assessment approaches that limit animal testing.

REACH is being phased in by the EU over 11 years. On May 31, 2013 all chemicals manufactured or imported in quantities of 100 tons or more annually had to be registered.

Resource:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/reach/index_en.htm