

REACH

What is REACH?

The European REACH Regulation (EC N° 1907/2006) stands for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals. REACH involves thousands of chemicals and materials that are sold in the EU. The purpose of REACH is to increase knowledge about chemical substances marketed in the EU, and their uses, and to ensure that they are properly managed. The REACH Regulation entered into force on June 1, 2007.

As a matter of policy, 3M supports and promotes the goals of life cycle management, product safety, sustainable development, and effective risk communication to employees and customers.

3M and REACH

Because REACH involves thousands of different materials and products, 3M has been actively preparing to meet the requirements of REACH. We recognized that this Regulation will have a significant worldwide impact on companies that make or sell products in Europe.

Although REACH is a European Regulation, it applies to goods coming into the region from all over the world – making the law a global compliance matter. Our company has developed an action plan to meet the requirements and timetables included in the regulation.

3M has completed a major milestone by successfully pre-registering all substances known by 3M to be manufactured in, or imported into the EU by 3M.

In cases where 3M is a downstream user, 3M is working closely with its suppliers to minimize potential negative impacts on 3M's supply chain.

3M is dedicated to getting further prepared for its own and its suppliers' registrations. During this ongoing process, 3M is working to avoid any supply chain disruption and will inform its customers in case of any impact on product availability.

In preparation of its registrations that are due by Dec. 2010, 3M is in the process of collecting and evaluating its customers product uses and the possible exposure. 3M will assess to the best of its ability the use and exposure data that is made known to 3M by customers and will communicate it to its suppliers as needed.

The European Chemicals Agency in October 2008 published its first candidate list of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC). 3M is identifying potential SVHCs and taking necessary actions to be prepared for/minimize the impacts of article notification, authorisation and restriction activities on our customers.

We appreciate your continuing interest in 3M and its products. Please contact your 3M representative with any questions or concerns.

Links:

The REACH Regulation: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l_136/l_13620070529en00030280.pdf

Amendment of Dangerous Substances Directive due to REACH: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_396/l_39620061230en08500856.pdf

ECB – REACH: <http://ecb.jrc.it/REACH/>

European Commission – Enterprise & Industry:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/index_en.htm

European Commission on Environment:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach_intro.htm