
REACH

In December 2006, the environment ministers of the European Union (EU) member states gave final approval to comprehensive chemical control rules, known as REACH (Registration, Evaluation, and Authorization of Chemicals), paving the way for the legislation to Enter Into Force (EIF) on June 1, 2007. REACH will require the registration of approximately 30,000 chemical substances with a new Helsinki-based chemicals agency.

REACH will apply to all chemical substances manufactured or imported into the EU in quantities of one metric ton or more annually. The pre-registration deadline for such chemicals is December 1, 2008 with the first registration deadline set for December 1, 2010.

PPG's Position

PPG supports the underlying objectives of REACH to protect human health and the environment and to increase knowledge regarding hazards and risks of chemical substances and their uses. PPG has participated in the consultation process through various trade associations, both inside and outside of the EU. PPG supports a science-based system to ensure that decision-making relies upon an appropriate evaluation of substance risk and benefits.

PPG's Actions

PPG's objective is to manage the safe use and handling of chemicals throughout the supply chain. As part of this commitment, PPG will pro-actively manage the implementation of REACH within the company and support the implementation by its customers and suppliers.

PPG has been preparing for REACH by tracking the legislative developments and continues to review the implementation guidance being developed by the European Chemicals Agency. Activities underway include general REACH awareness building, creation of inventories of raw materials and products potentially affected by REACH and the creation of a REACH steering committee consisting of high-level stakeholders to guide, review and approve overall company activities. As the raw material inventories are finalized and the potential impacts to PPG emerge, working groups are focusing on specific REACH implementation activities such as information sharing with suppliers and customers and joining consortia (SIEFs) to collect and review specific chemical data.

PPG anticipates that compliance with the REACH legislation may increase costs due to product testing, risk characterization and report preparation. PPG will continue to monitor REACH implementation guidance documents still being prepared by the various governing agencies and will continue to work closely with our supply chain partners. PPG also anticipates that some products may be subject to the REACH authorization process and that PPG will be able to demonstrate adequate risk management for the use and application of the majority of such substances.