

## REACH Regulation

The EU Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) entered into force on 1 June 2007. Its goal is to protect human health and the environment. Manufacturers, importers and downstream users may place on the market only those substances which ensure this.



The Regulation is based on the “precautionary principle” – the registration of substances is to a large extent compulsory. The aim of the Regulation is to document and make safe the entire life-cycle of a chemical substance. For updated information on previous REACH information, visit the NORWE website:

- 06.2007 – basic information on REACH
- 11.2008 – 1<sup>st</sup> update info on pre-registration

### Current status of REACH implementation

Pre-registration of the “phase-in-substances” was completed by 1 December 2008. “Phase-in-substances” are substances which were already marketed in the EU before 1981 and are listed in the EU Inventory of existing commercial chemical substances.

As next step in the implementation process, the “phase-in-substances” have to be registered by the manufacturers or importers by a certain date depending on the quantities and then evaluated by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Non “phase-in-substances” in quantities of one tonne per year or more have to be registered at short notice. The same applies to substances with very hazardous properties.

For this the ECHA has published a Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (for further information, go to [www.echa.europa.eu](http://www.echa.europa.eu)).

The published list includes substances which survive for a long time in the environment. There is therefore a danger that these toxic substances will not only be absorbed by the human body but that they will accumulate in a way hazardous to health (carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction substances and persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic substances).

### Current status at NORWE

As stated in our last REACH update, pre-registration for all NORWE standard materials has been agreed. And, from today’s standpoint, all standard materials used by NORWE will continue to be available after implementation of REACH. In accordance with the obligations of which we are aware, we together with our material manufacturers and material suppliers, have already checked for any possible presence of substances in accordance with the Candidate List.

**We can herewith confirm in agreement with our material manufacturers and material suppliers that in the NORWE standard materials there are no substances of very high concern according to the ECHA Candidate List which are above the given concentration.**

**Our specialists will be pleased to provide further information you may have.**

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