

REACH

Competent Authority

Annette Smith

Chemical Assessment Schemes Unit

Outline of today's presentation



- Basic outline of REACH
- CA roles

What is REACH?

- Registration, Evaluation Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (Regulation)
- New EU Regulation
- Very broad in scope
- Most complex and largest piece of EU legislation produced (234 pages without the Annexes!)
- Rationalises the current EU system for regulating chemicals

Benefits of REACH

- Significantly increase the information available on hazards and risks of substances up and down the supply chain
- Helps to maintain and promote the competitiveness of industry while improving protection of human health and the environment (e.g. improves dialogue, exchange of ideas)
- Promotion of alternative methods for assessment of hazards of substances

Key features of REACH

- New registration requirement covering almost all substances manufactured or imported into the EU market above 1 tonne per year – no data, no market!
- Information requirements increase with increasing tonnage supplied
- System for “authorising” the use of some chemicals
- European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
- Covers features of the current regime (e.g. SDS)
- Phase in (existing subs) / Non-phase in (new subs)
- **Transfers responsibility from authorities to industry**

Scope

- All substances manufactured or imported into the EU at 1 tonne per year or more per manufacturer/importer
- Includes substances supplied in preparations (e.g. mixtures, formulations) to the extent where they are not covered by other more specific legislation
- Includes substances supplied in articles at 1 tonne per year or more (per producer/importer) if substance is intended to be released during normal and reasonably foreseeable conditions of use

UK REACH CA: some crucial points



- **Defra** has been the lead government dept
- Defra asked HSE to deliver the UK CA role

Responsibilities of a national CA



- Operate a “Helpdesk”
- Promote compliance with Registration
- Evaluate priority substances
- Identify substances requiring Authorisation decisions
- Nominate and support candidates for EU REACH committees
- Liaise with all relevant regulators dealing with downstream enforcement issues nationally

CA: position, location, people



- HSE, Bootle
- “Chemical Assessment Schemes Unit”– REACH CA, Biocides CA and others (GHS, NONS, ESR)
- contributions from across HSE
- partnership with EA’s Chemicals Assessment Unit (Wallingford)

HSE's Activity Since Becoming CA

- Ongoing contribution to RIPs
 - IT
 - Industry Guides
 - Authority guides
- Implementation plan for REACH CA in place
- Staffing of the CA
- “UK REACH CA Operational Committee” met on 2 May (cross-UK govt; steering)
- Helpdesk established

Helpdesk

- Reactive – e.g. responding to requests for advice
- Proactive – providing an outreach role, particularly for SMEs

Reactive activities

- Active since October 2006
- Enquiries received via telephone and email
- Wide range of topics, commonly;
 - Downstream User requirements
 - Other legislation
 - Scope

Proactive activities

- Website
- Few big set-piece events
- ‘Roadshow’ type activities
- Attend events organised by others
- Look for opportunities to speak/meet
- Gearing/cascading via regulatory “front-line”, TAs, professional bodies, others
- Leaflets, flyers

Things the helpdesk can do...

- Provide advice on interpretation of text of REACH
- Facilitation role – help duty holders understand that they have responsibilities and how to meet them
- Work with stakeholders on communicating key messages
- Part of the EU network of national helpdesks
- Network with other UK ‘helpdesk’ providers

Things the helpdesk cannot do...

- Respond to complaints about the operation of REACH at the European level (ECHA/European Commission)
- Provide input to any assessments being conducted by industry (its not like NONS and ESR)
- Give views/opinions on draft assessments
- Get involved in SIEFs
- Provide support on policy issues (Defra)



Contact details

Telephone: 0845 408 9575

e-mail: UKREACHCA@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Mail: UK REACH CA Helpdesk
2.3 Redgrave Court
Bootle
Merseyside, L20 7HS