

REACH & Biodiesel

What is REACH?

REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals) is the system for controlling chemicals in Europe. It became law in the UK on 1st June 2007.

How might REACH affect you?

Manufacturers or importers of chemical substances need to register those substances. **Fuels are not exempt from REACH!** In REACH terms, biodiesel is a substance with a complex and/or variable composition and in certain circumstances its different variants require registration. These are described below:

- If you use fresh/virgin (i.e., non-waste) vegetable oil or animal fat to make biodiesel in quantities of 1 tonne or more per year, either to use yourself or to supply to other people (even if it's for export), then you will have a registration duty for the biodiesel. In these circumstances you have **manufactured** the biodiesel.
- If you use **waste** vegetable oil or animal fat to make biodiesel in quantities of 1 tonne or more per year, either to use yourself or to supply to other people (even if it's for export), then you may be able to use the exemption for substances recovered from waste in Article 2(7)(d) of REACH. For this to apply, the biodiesel you produce must have "ceased to be waste". This could be due to compliance with the [Environment Agency's end-of-waste protocol for biodiesel](#) or in accordance with similar provisions from the [Scottish Environmental Protection Agency](#) or the [Northern Ireland Environment Agency](#). In these circumstances you have **recovered** the biodiesel (despite the recovery process involving a chemical change to the waste oil/fat). If the biodiesel does not meet the end-of-waste criteria, then it remains a waste.

Further information about biodiesel production from waste can be found on the website of the relevant agency. Further information is also available in the [REACH and substances recovered from waste guidance](#).

- If you import (from outside the EU) biodiesel in quantities of 1 tonne or more per year, then you will have a registration duty for the biodiesel. This applies regardless of how the biodiesel was produced. The origin of the oil/fat does not matter in these circumstances as the Article 2(7)(d) exemption applies only to recovery process that take place within the EU

The attached list includes examples of substances that may be used as biodiesel.

More information on REACH can be found at the UK REACH Competent Authority website www.hse.gov.uk/reach.

What am I expected to do under REACH?

If you want to continue to manufacture biodiesel from fresh/virgin oil or to import it, then you will need to register them with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki. Registration means providing a package of technical information on the chemical and its hazards to the ECHA. Further information on registration is in [UK Competent Authority Leaflet Number 16 – Registration](#).

Registration is phased over a period of years based on tonnage levels and in some cases the hazards of the chemical. However, to take advantage of the phase-in time existing biodiesel producers will need to have pre-registered between 1 June and 1 December 2008. New manufacturers or importers may be able to late-pre-register (see [UK REACH Competent Authority Information Leaflet Number 7 – Pre-registration](#) for

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details). Failure to pre-register would mean that you would have to cease manufacture or import, register immediately or be in breach of the law.

Companies that are recovering biodiesel from waste oils/fats will need to have a pre-registration to cover their supply until the exemption in article 2(7)(d) applies; i.e., somebody registers biodiesel from virgin oil or due to import.

Further information

REACH:	http://www.hse.gov.uk/reach
Pre-registration:	http://www.hse.gov.uk/reach/resources/preregistration.pdf
Recovered substances	http://www.hse.gov.uk/reach/resources/waste.pdf
REACH helpdesk email:	ukreachca@hse.gsi.gov.uk



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Substances on EINECS that may be manufactured for use as biodiesel		
EC number	CAS number	EINECS Name
262-988-1	61788-59-8	Fatty-acids, coco, Me esters ¹
262-989-7	61788-61-2	Fatty-acids, tallow, Me esters
267-007-0	67762-26-9	Fatty acids, C14-18 and C16-18-unsatd., Me esters
267-014-9	67762-37-2	Fatty acids, C8-18 and C18-unsatd., Me esters
267-015-4	67762-38-3	Fatty acids, C16-18 and C18-unsatd., Me esters
267-017-5	67762-39-4	Fatty-acids, C6-12, Me esters
267-018-0	67762-40-7	Fatty-acids, C10-16, Me esters
269-908-4	68390-63-6	Fatty-acids, castor oil, Me esters
270-457-0	68440-46-0	Fatty-acids, sperm oil, Me esters
271-709-2	68605-02-7	Fatty-acids, fish oil, Me esters
271-715-5	68605-14-1	Fatty-acids, safflower oil, Me esters
271-955-0	68647-50-7	Fatty acids, C16 and C18-unsatd., Me esters
272-898-4	68919-53-9	Fatty-acids, soya, Me esters
272-900-3	68919-54-0	Fatty-acids, sunflower oil, Me esters
273-090-4	68937-80-4	Fatty acids, C16-20 and C16-18-unsatd., Me esters
273-092-5	68937-81-5	Fatty acids, C18 and C18-unsatd., Me esters
273-094-6	68937-83-7	Fatty-acids, C6-10, Me esters
273-095-1	68937-84-8	Fatty-acids, C12-18, Me esters
273-116-4	68938-13-6	Fatty-acids, castor oil, Me esters, hydrogenated
273-606-8	68990-52-3	Fatty-acids, vegetable oil, Me esters
277-893-0	74499-22-2	Fatty-acids, tall oil, Me esters
282-485-0	84238-16-4	Fatty-acids, mustard oil, Me esters
284-974-4	85005-41-0	Fatty-acids, lanolin, Me esters
285-208-1	85049-38-3	Fatty acids, C14-18 and C16-22-unsatd., Me esters
286-065-8	85186-80-7	Fatty acids, C14-18 and C18-unsatd., branched and linear, Me esters
287-029-4	85408-67-9	Fatty acids, C18-24 and C16-24-unsatd., Me esters
287-322-7	85480-42-8	Fatty acids, animal, unsatd., Me esters
287-507-2	85536-26-1	Fatty-acids, butter, Me esters
287-636-4	85566-26-3	Fatty-acids, C8-10, Me esters
287-638-5	85566-27-4	Fatty-acids, C12-16, Me esters
287-823-0	85586-20-5	Fatty-acids, C11-17, Me esters
287-824-6	85586-21-6	Fatty-acids, C16-18, Me esters
287-828-8	85586-25-0	Fatty-acids, rape oil, Me esters
288-011-9	85631-62-5	Fatty-acids, coco, hydrogenated, Me esters
292-898-8	91002-21-0	Fatty-acids, C14-18-branched, Me esters
292-969-3	91031-65-1	Fatty-acids, C8-18, Me esters
292-970-9	91031-66-2	Fatty-acids, C12-20, Me esters
292-971-4	91031-67-3	Fatty-acids, C14-18, Me esters
293-055-7	91051-06-8	Fatty-acids, essential, Me esters
293-066-7	91051-16-0	Fatty-acids, linseed oil, Me esters
293-084-5	91051-32-0	Fatty-acids, palm kernel oil, Me esters
293-086-6	91051-34-2	Fatty-acids, palm oil, Me esters
294-324-1	91697-62-0	Fatty-acids, rape oil, hydrogenated, Me esters
297-410-7	93571-83-6	Fatty acids, C16-24 and C16-24-unsatd., Me esters
297-429-0	93572-01-1	Fatty-acids, olive oil, Me esters
297-436-9	93572-08-8	Fatty-acids, peanut oil, Me esters
305-591-1	94733-11-6	Fatty-acids, C5-20, Me esters
305-759-4	95009-32-8	Fatty-acids, Iris germanica, Me esters
305-761-5	95009-33-9	Fatty-acids, Iris pallida, Me esters
310-005-2	102047-28-9	Fatty acids, C16-18 and C16-18-unsatd., Me esters

¹ Note: this substance is included in Annex IV of REACH as a substance exempt from registration