

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 when they are manufacturer or imported in quantities of 1 tonne or more per year. **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 (i.e., non-waste) vegetable oil or animal fat to make biodiesel, 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, 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 line with similar provisions from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency or the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. In these circumstances you have **recovered** the biodiesel (this is still the case even though the recovery process involves a chemical change to the waste oil/fat). If the biodiesel does not meet the end-of-waste criteria, then it remains a waste,
- If you import (from outside the EU/EEA) biodiesel, then you will have a registration duty for the biodiesel. This applies regardless of how the biodiesel was produced.

In the above cases, it does not matter if you manufacture or import the substance for your own use, for supply to others or manufacture for export only. The attached list includes examples of substances that may be used as biodiesel.

What am I expected to do under REACH?

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

Registration of certain substances is phased over a period of years based principally on tonnage levels. However, to take advantage of the phase-in time biodiesel producers will need to have pre-registered. New manufacturers or importers may be able to late- pre-register (see [UK REACH Competent Authority Information Leaflet Number 7 – Pre-registration](#) for details). Companies that are recovering biodiesel from waste oils/fats may be able to use the exemption in Article 2(7)(d). This would apply if the material recovered is the same as one that has already been registered. At the time of publication of this leaflet, several substances on the following list have been registered ([marked in Blue](#))

Further information

For advice on the application of REACH obligations, you can contact the UK REACH Competent Authority's national helpdesk:

Email: UKREACHCA@hse.gov.uk

Website: www.hse.gov.uk/reach



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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