



1. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
 - a. General Information

i) What is REACH Regulation

REACH stands for the Regulation for Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals. The REACH Regulation entered into force on 1 June 2007 to streamline and improve the former legislative framework for chemicals of the European Union (EU), REGULATION (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH). REACH also created the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) which has a central co-ordination and implementation role in the overall process. ECHA is located in Helsinki, Finland and manages the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction processes for chemical substances to ensure consistency across the countries in which REACH applies.

ii) What is ECHA

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is the driving force among regulatory authorities in implementing the EU's groundbreaking chemicals legislation for the benefit of human health and the environment as well as for innovation and competitiveness. <https://echa.europa.eu>

iii) CLP Regulation

The Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation ((EC) No 1272/2008) is based on the United Nations' Globally Harmonised System (GHS) and its purpose is to ensure a high level of protection of health and the environment, as well as the free movement of substances, mixtures and articles.

iv) Only Representative

Companies based outside the EEA can appoint a European-based only representative to take over the tasks and responsibilities of importers for complying with REACH. This can simplify access to the EEA market for their products, secure the supply and reduce the responsibilities for importers.

Only representatives have to be:

- A natural person or legal entity established physically in the EEA
- Equipped with sufficient knowledge in the practical handling of the substances and information related to them
- Appointed by a mutual agreement with a manufacturer, formulator or article producer, established outside the EEA

- Responsible for complying with the legal requirements for importers under REACH

v) Does REACH apply to substances (either on their own, in mixtures or in articles) manufactured or imported in volumes below 1 tonne per year?

Yes, because besides registration there are several obligations under REACH that apply irrespective of tonnage. These include restrictions, authorisation and communication in the supply chain (such as the provision of safety data sheets). The one tonne per year threshold applies to registration only.

vi) Does REACH require any changes in Safety Data Sheets?

Yes, according to Articles 31 and 32 of the REACH Regulation some changes in the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) are required. However, the duties and responsibilities for Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) remain largely the same. Guidance for the compilation of Safety Data Sheets is given in Annex II of the REACH Regulation.

- i. When does a safety data sheet with annexed exposure scenario have to be provided to customers?

Where an Exposure Scenario (ES) is developed as a result of conducting a chemical safety assessment as required by Article 14 or 37(4) of the REACH Regulation, it must be annexed to the safety data sheet (SDS), provided it is relevant for the customer.

According to Article 31(9) a supplier shall update his SDS without delay as soon as new information which may affect the risk management measures or new information on hazards becomes available. An ES is considered to be such new information, which normally triggers the need to update a SDS as soon as it becomes available. The SDS with annexed ES resulting from this update has to be provided without delay to all customers who have been supplied with the particular substance or mixture within the preceding 12 months. This provision applies since the entry into force of the REACH Regulation and irrespectively of whether the substances are registered or not.

Where the information in an ES that becomes available does not affect the risk management measures and the ES contains no new information on hazards, the SDS does of course not have to be updated.

- ii. Can a single safety data sheet (SDS) be used to cover more than one substance or mixture?

Yes it can if the information provided in the SDS fulfills the requirements of Annex II of REACH for each of those substances or mixtures. However, this condition can only be fulfilled in cases of minor variations of a substance or a mixture, for example for minor concentration changes of impurities or components, due to which the hazard profile does not change. A single SDS cannot be used for totally different substances or mixtures

- iii. Downstream Users

Downstream users are users of chemicals under REACH and CLP. They are companies or individuals:

- within the European Union/European Economic Area,
- who use a substance, either on its own or in a mixture,
- in their industrial or professional activities.

Examples include:

- Formulators: produce mixtures, which are usually supplied further downstream. For example, paints, adhesives and cleaning agents.
- End users: use substances or mixtures but do not supply them further downstream. Examples include users of adhesives, coatings and inks, lubricants, cleaning agents, solvents and chemical reagents like bleaching products. This includes producers of articles.
- Producers of articles: incorporate substances or mixtures into or onto materials to form an article. Examples include textiles, industrial equipment, household appliances and vehicles (both components and finished goods).
- Re-fillers: transfer substances or mixtures from one container to another, generally in the course of repackaging or rebranding.
- Re-importers: import a substance, on its own or in a mixture, which has originally been produced in the EU, and registered by someone in the same supply chain.
- Importer with an "only representative": importers are downstream users when their non-Community supplier has nominated an "only representative" for the purpose of acting as a registrant established in the Community.

REACH registration numbers are –if applicable– communicated through our Safety Data Sheets.

SAFETY DATA SHEETS

Safety Data Sheets for our substances registered under REACH have been adapted to meet REACH & CLP format standards. Safety Data Sheets or Extended Safety Data Sheet (eSDS) are provided to customers automatically with first shipment or on request which can be submitted to regulatory@dcmsriram.com, if required.