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REACH Screening Methodology for E&E Substances Now Available

The EU REACH candidate list of chemicals covers substances utilized in all industries. A new revision of the Joint Industry Guide (JIG 101 Ed2.0A) identifies a screening methodology for the substances that may occur in Electrical & Electronic products.

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Article 33 of the EU Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulation requires manufacturers and suppliers to submit information on certain chemicals to their customers and the end consumers. Furthermore, article 7.2 requires the notification of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) of articles containing substances of very high concern (SVHC). This will become mandatory as of June 2011 if the chemical is found, in all articles of a legal entity, in a quantity that exceeds one tonne per year.

Screening Method

The screening method proposed allows an easy identification of SVHC relevant for the E&E industry, regardless of whether they are currently on the candidate list or in the registry of intention. The registry of intention includes substances that the EU Member States intend to propose for restriction or identification as SHVC.

A simple system of criteria and score points allows the identification of E&E relevant SVHC that need to be declared:

- Substances identifiable by a CAS or EC number receive 1 point. Substances that don t meet this criterion score -10
- Substances that remain in the product after its production receive 1 point. Substances that don t meet this criterion score -10 . Substances that are not part of the final product are thus eliminated (gasses or liquids)
- Prior application information that indicates the use of a substance in E&E products. Such information is collected from public databases on chemicals and through consultation with chemical industry experts on known uses of a substance in E&E products. Such information is available in REACH related EU member countries documentation. Only substances that have scored 1 with the previous two criteria score points here.

All substances that score 3 points are included in the JIG declarable substance list.

REACH Chemicals Relevant for E&E

From the candidate list of 15 SVHC valid at the time of JIG-101 Ed 2.0 publication, only 8 substances were identified through this screening method as relevant for the E&E industry. They are all listed under Criteria 1-R in REACH Annex 1, which means there is an immediate legal obligation to report the presence of these substances. (see substance table).

A new public consultation on additional 15 potential SVHC has been published by ECHA on 1st September 2009. These potential SVHC candidates are not yet included in the screening procedure. Even if a JIG assessment on these new substances is currently missing it is very likely that some will make it to the JIG declarable substance list.

Find more information on REACH

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