

Press Release: ECHA/PR/08/14

Helsinki, June 18, 2008

ECHA URGES COMPANIES TO FOLLOW GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS IN THEIR DATA SUBMISSION

ECHA has reviewed the quality of the first data submissions. By 13 June 2008, 1427 companies had signed up in REACH-IT and created 7360 pre-registrations. For 2% of these pre-registrations, substance identity information was not provided in line with ECHA guidelines. Also 143 PPORD notifications and 38 inquiries have been received by the Agency. Many of the dossiers submitted via the temporary submission procedures could not be further processed due to inadequate or incomplete information. Therefore, additional instructions will be published shortly. ECHA urges companies to follow closely these instructions and the relevant guidance.

Company sign up and pre-registrations

By 13 June 2008, 1427 companies had signed up in REACH-IT and created 7360 pre-registrations.

More than 98% of the received pre-registrations rely on EINECS or CAS identifiers. For the remaining substances which were pre-registered by chemical names or other names, ECHA strongly recommends the use of internationally recognised nomenclature such as IUPAC names. In addition, the use of English names is encouraged. Consistent use of the guidance for identification and naming of substances is needed to ensure that potential registrants can be grouped in the same pre-SIEF.

ECHA recognises that some companies may have difficulties to find the correct substance name in EINECS and therefore pre-register their substances correctly. Where possible, ECHA will contact these pre-registrants and give them the possibility to re-submit the information in a correct manner.

Submissions via the temporary submission procedures

By 13 June 2008, ECHA has also received 143 PPORD notifications, 38 inquiries, 5 regular registrations and 15 registrations for intermediates. Many of these dossiers could not be processed further because of incorrect information (e.g. missing submission form or inconsistent dossier identification). In addition to industry dossiers, ECHA has also received from Member States 14 proposals for identification of Substances of Very High Concern and 6 proposals for harmonised Classification and Labelling.

For PPORD notifications and registrations which could be processed but which failed the completeness check due to missing or incomplete information, ECHA has granted a sufficiently long

time frame for companies to complete their PPORD notifications or registrations. The Agency urges companies to respect the given deadline to have legal certainty of the continuation of their operations.

The first submission of inquiries suggests that in many cases companies have not submitted sufficient information on substance identification in order for ECHA to be able to carry out its work without requesting further information to these companies.

ECHA has also noted that a substantive proportion of the submitted registrations for intermediates have not been preceded by a proper inquiry or pre-registration, indicating insufficient fulfilment of data sharing obligations.

ECHA will shortly update its temporary submission procedures in order to assist industry in submitting correct dossiers. It will in particular address errors and data gaps in the information necessary to process the dossiers and in substance identity.

Technical completeness check

Most commonly occurring errors in the technical dossiers were related to missing information on the chemical identity and the composition of the substance. In 50% of the incomplete dossiers, either the correct name or molecular and structural information was incompletely provided. Other frequently occurring data gaps (30% of "failing" dossiers) were related to incomplete analytical information and missing contact details of the recipients.

Specific new guidance on completeness of registrations will be published by the end of this month.

Technical improvement of REACH IT

Technical improvement of REACH IT continues. A maintenance release aimed at fixing a number of known issues was successfully introduced on 17 June. The release notes have been updated accordingly. This will improve the application for industry users and other users.

Further Information

Information on temporary submission procedures:

http://echa.europa.eu/reachit_en.asp

Information on REACH guidance:

http://reach.jrc.it/

Press contacts: press@echa.europa.eu