



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

UK REACH

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On 1 January 2021 Defra put in to place a new domestic chemicals regulatory regime, including UK REACH

The Comply with UK REACH service went live on 1 January 2021. This includes our new IT system that allows industry to fulfil their registration obligations and the UK Chemicals Helpline.

For help using the comply with UK REACH service you can call the UK Chemicals helpline Telephone 0330 159 1985 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (except public holidays)

For more detailed UK REACH guidance please visit

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/reach/index.htm>

To begin your Comply with UK REACH journey please also visit

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-comply-with-reach-chemical-regulations>



Northern Ireland Protocol

- Under the Northern Ireland Protocol, NI businesses will remain within EU REACH.
- This means that all existing NI-based EU REACH registrations will remain valid and NI businesses will continue to be able to trade into the EU/EEA.
- GB-based EU REACH registrations will no longer be valid in NI.
- You may wish to encourage any NI based downstream users you supply to take measures to retain EU/EEA market access i.e. hold a valid EU REACH registration.



Registration

- Under UK REACH companies have to collect information on the properties and uses of the substances they manufacture or import above one tonne a year. They should also assess the hazards of the substance and any potential risks presented by its uses.
- Registration applies to substances on their own, substances in mixtures (formulated products) and in certain limited cases to substances in articles.
- Under UK REACH, the principle of "one substance, one registration" has been retained. This means that manufacturers and importers of the same substance should be part of a 'joint registration'.



UK REACH Transitional Measures in summary

- All existing GB-held EU REACH registrations, authorisations, and imported substances (from EEA/EU) remained valid after the end of the Transition Period.
- Existing GB-held EU REACH registrants have 120 days to provide GB authorities with some initial information. Importers of substances from EU based registrants have 300 days to provide GB authorities with some initial information.
- Companies then have 2, 4 or 6 years beginning after those 300 days for full registrations to be completed, dependent on tonnage bands and hazard profile, with the Highest tonnage and most hazardous chemicals first.



Actions for Business: Access to the GB Market - Transitional Measures

- All existing GB-held EU REACH registrations, authorisations, and imported substances (from EEA/EU) remained valid at the end of the Transition Period.
 - Existing GB-held EU REACH registrants had **120 days** to provide UK authorities with some initial information. **That deadline has now passed.**
 - Importers of substances from EU based registrants have **300 days** to provide UK authorities with some initial information.
- Companies then have **2, 4 or 6 years** beginning after those 300 days (28 Oct 2021) for full registrations to be completed (this includes providing full substance data packages).
- These deadlines are dependent on tonnage bands and hazard profile, with the highest tonnage and most hazardous chemicals first.



Deadline Post 28 October 2021	Tonnage	Hazardous Property
2 years from 28 October 2021	1000 tonnes or more per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction (CMRs) - 1 tonne or more per year• Very toxic to aquatic organisms (acute or chronic) - 100 tonnes or more per year• Candidate list substances (as at 31 December 2020)
4 years from 28 October 2021	100 tonnes or more per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Candidate list substances (as at 27 October 2023)
6 years from 28 October 2021	1 tonne or more per year	



Actions for EU Business: Access to the GB Market - Transitional Measures

Option 1: Your GB customer will register the substance under UK REACH

- Use of the 'notification' provision is available for your GB downstream users to ensure continuity of supply at the end of the Transition Period.
- To notify they must provide some information to the regulator (the HSE) **within 300 days** of the end of the Transition Period.
- Your GB customer will then need to register the substance **within the deadline appropriate to their tonnage band and hazard profile.**
- This will be classed as a new registration and will therefore be subject to fees payable to the UK Agency (the HSE).



Actions for Business: Access to the GB Market - Transitional Measures

Option 2: The EEA exporter would register the substance under UK REACH, using a GB-based entity

- EEA based exporters may choose to register the substance under UK REACH through a GB-based Only Representative or an affiliate GB importer.
- Your GB Downstream users may make use of the notification process to ensure compliance in the interim between the end of the Transition Period and registration obligations being taken up by your GB-based entity.
- If the EEA exporter takes on registration obligations via a GB-based entity, their GB customers will retain their downstream users status.
- This will be classed as a new registration and will therefore be subject to fees payable to the UK Agency (the HSE).



Joint registrations

- Joint registrations are a way of reducing costs to business and avoiding testing on animals.
- Registrants share data to ensure the information needed for a registration is submitted to the HSE. They must share data on a substance's properties in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory way. 'Comply with UK REACH' enables data sharing through the formation of substance groups.
- Registrants under UK REACH should jointly submit information on the intrinsic properties of the substance in a lead dossier.



Substance groups

- Substance groups are the way that 'Comply with UK REACH' organises registrants. They are made up of multiple businesses that all want to submit a registration for the same substance.
- Registrants of the same substance are automatically matched and put in a substance group. This is done after either:
 - submitting the initial substance identification information - in the case of grandfathered registrations
 - submitting a substance inquiry if you are a new registrant - including those who wish to register, having submitted a Downstream User Import Notification



Data sharing

- Sharing the data needed to submit a joint registration is an important task for substance groups. If the substance group is in the process of forming, members must:
 - find out what studies are available
 - assess any data gaps within the group
 - consider other publicly available data
- If a study is not available in the group, members will need to agree how to get the missing data. The group members need to agree how they will share the costs for both existing and new studies.



New EU and UK REACH registrations

- To register a new chemical for the EU/EEA and GB markets a company would need to register with both REACH regimes.
- Under UK REACH that would mean setting up an account on *Comply with UK REACH*.
- Applications for authorisations would need to be submitted to the UK Regulator, the HSE.
- Under EU REACH the process remains unchanged.



Contact us

A reminder of where you can find helpful guidance.

- For more detailed UK REACH guidance please visit <https://www.hse.gov.uk/reach/index.htm>
- To begin your Comply with UK REACH journey please also visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-comply-with-reach-chemical-regulations>
- If there are further queries or you wish to receive occasional updates related to UK REACH, contact us on chemicalspolicy@defra.gov.uk