

Health and Safety Services
Safety Team
The University of Manchester
Waterloo Place,
180, Oxford Road,
Manchester M13 9GP

www.manchester.ac.uk

To Deans of Faculty, Heads of Schools, Safety Advisors, Safety Representatives
From Dr Melanie Taylor, University Safety Advisor
Date 11 July 2006
Distribution Dr S A Robson, Prof P Heggs, Dr J Bridger, S Everitt
Reference Circular 10/2006

Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals Regulations (REACH)

These new European Regulations will come into force early in 2007, and are expected to have a significant effect on the supply chain of chemicals.

REACH will create new duties, primarily on suppliers and manufacturers, to evaluate the safety and environmental impact of substances already on the market (in much the same way as new substances already have to be evaluated before they can be marketed within the EU). As you can imagine, this will be a huge task for the extensive inventory currently available, and the requirements will be brought in progressively, starting with hazardous substances used in the largest quantities.

It appears likely that the University itself may not need to register, evaluate or obtain authorization for substances used in research because of exemptions. However, one foreseeable outcome is that some suppliers / importers will not provide the resource necessary to register, evaluate or authorize substances for which safety and environmental data is not readily available, or for which data can only be obtained at costs disproportionate to the benefits of retaining the substance on the market. This legislation will therefore affect downstream users of chemicals, and may well result in the withdrawal of some specialist chemicals or those used in smaller quantities eg by research establishments.

The Safety Office is developing a strategy for dealing with this legislation. In the **immediate** term, users of "substances of very high concern" (SVHC) but low volume sales should be advised to start talking to their suppliers, to establish whether they will continue to market substances critical to their research. SVHC include substances classed as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction (CMRs), substances that are persistent and biotoxic (PBT), or very persistent and biotoxic (vPvB).

Dr Melanie Taylor
University Safety Advisor