



Flint Group and REACH Registrations

REACH – the new European Community Regulation on chemicals and their safe use (EC 1907/2006) – is in course of continuous implementation. It deals with the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances.

The next milestone in this directive is December 1st, 2010. By this date, all highly dangerous substances and all substances produced in or imported into the EU in quantities above 1000 tons/year have to be registered. As Flint Group is producing and importing resins and pigments within this tonnage band, it is our obligation to register these substances. The registration process is prepared in a Safety Information Exchange Forum (SIEF). In a SIEF the suppliers of the same chemical substance gather in consortia and compile all data necessary for the registration. This procedure is chosen to ensure that all suppliers refer to the same database and to reduce the number of animal tests. All data has to be collected in a registration dossier before being sent to ECHA (European Chemicals Agency). Fees are paid to ECHA for every registration and in total these add up to about €23,000 for each company; additionally there are considerable costs for toxicological tests, studies and other activities. As a hardcopy of the registration dossier for one substance would encompass more than 500 pages, it becomes clear just how complicated and complex this procedure is. Nevertheless – the Flint Group REACH team including members from regulatory and each of the product divisions managed to finalise all 11 registration processes required at the end of this September. ECHA has since accepted our dossiers and communicated the registration numbers.

At present, approximately 6000 substances are registered at ECHA. After the REACH pre-registration process, it was estimated that approximately 50,000 substances still have to be registered by 1st December 2010. This shows that by far, not all producers or importers of substances are as quick and diligent with the registration process as Flint Group. For those concerned, missing this deadline means that the substances can no longer be brought to market legally.

The Flint Group REACH team are now preparing the next step: leading up to June 1st 2013, all substances in the volume range from 100 to 1000 tons/year have to be registered.