

REACH: REACH Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006), explained

The REACH Regulation covers every chemical substance made in or imported into the EU, on its own, in a mixture or in an article: registration with ECHA from one tonne a year, authorisation for substances of very high concern and the Annex XVII restrictions. It has applied since 1 June 2008 and Annex XVII is amended several times a year, most recently by Regulation (EU) 2026/1168 of 22 June 2026.

Reviewed 5 October 2026 by Conphora compliance team · Next review 22 March 2027 · Not legal advice

Key facts

Reference	Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006	Act type	Regulation
In force	1 June 2007	Applies from	1 June 2008
Amended by	Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008, Regulation (EU) 2020/878, Regulation (EU) 2023/1464, Regulation (EU) 2023/2055, Regulation (EU) 2024/1328, Regulation (EU) 2024/2462, Regulation (EU) 2025/660, Regulation (EU) 2025/1090, Regulation (EU) 2025/1731, Regulation (EU) 2025/1988, Regulation (EU) 2026/859, Regulation (EU) 2026/1168	Enforced by	Each Member State appoints the competent authorities and the enforcement bodies that carry out official controls and lays down the penalties (Art. 121, Art. 125 and Art. 126); the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki runs registration, evaluation and the authorisation and restriction procedures, and its Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement coordinates the national inspection projects (Art. 76(1)(f) and Art. 77(4)).
CELEX	32006R1907		

Key dates

18 December 2006	Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 adopted by the European Parliament and the Council; published in OJ L 396 of 30 December 2006 and republished with corrections in OJ L 136 of 29 May 2007	title, dates and corrigendum 32006R1907R(01)
1 June 2007	Entry into force; the European Chemicals Agency is established and the transitional rules for the notified substances of Directive 67/548/EEC start	Art. 75 and Art. 141(1)
1 June 2008	Registration (Title II), data sharing (Title III), downstream users (Title V), evaluation (Title VI), authorisation (Title VII), the classification and labelling inventory (Title XI) and the information rules (Title XII) apply; pre-registration of phase-in substances opens	Art. 28(2) and Art. 141(2)
1 December 2008	Pre-registration window closes; only pre-registered phase-in substances keep the staggered registration deadlines of Article 23	Art. 23 and Art. 28(2)
1 June 2009	Restrictions (Title VIII and Annex XVII) apply and Directive 76/769/EEC on marketing and use restrictions is repealed	Art. 67, Art. 139 and Art. 141(4)
1 December 2010	First registration deadline: phase-in substances at 1 000 tonnes a year or more, CMR category 1 and 2 substances at 1 tonne or more and substances very toxic to aquatic organisms at 100 tonnes or more	Art. 23(1)
1 June 2013	Second registration deadline: phase-in substances at 100 tonnes a year or more	Art. 23(2)
1 June 2018	Final registration deadline: phase-in substances at 1 tonne a year or more; since then every substance needs a registration before manufacture or import	Art. 5, Art. 6 and Art. 23(3)
1 January 2021	Regulation (EU) 2020/878 applies: the revised Annex II format for safety data sheets, with old-format sheets accepted until 31 December 2022	Art. 2 and Annex
17 October 2023	Regulation (EU) 2023/2055 in force: Annex XVII entry 78 restricts synthetic polymer microparticles (microplastics), with product-specific transition periods of 4 to 12 years	Art. 2 and Annex
31 December 2023	ECHA's compliance-check target: dossiers checked for at least 20 % of the registrations in the 100 tonnes or more band	Art. 41(5)
10 October 2024	Regulation (EU) 2024/2462 in force: Annex XVII entry 79 on PFHxA, its salts and related substances, with the first product bans from 10 April 2026 and 10 October 2026	Art. 2 and Annex
1 September 2025	Regulation (EU) 2025/1731 applies: newly classified carcinogens, mutagens and reproductive	Art. 2 and dates

toxicants added to Appendices 2, 4 and 6 of Annex XVII, extending entries 28 to 30 to them

23 October 2025	Regulation (EU) 2025/1988 in force: Annex XVII entry 82 restricts per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in firefighting foams	Art. 2 and dates
11 May 2026	Regulation (EU) 2026/859 in force: Annex XVII entry 83 on 2,4-dinitrotoluene in articles, banning it above 0,1 % in articles for professional users and the public after 10 May 2027	Art. 2 and Annex, entry 83 paragraph 1
6 June 2026	Annex XVII entry 70 as replaced by Regulation (EU) 2024/1328 bites: D4, D5 and D6 at 0,1 % or more may no longer be placed on the market as substances, as constituents or in mixtures, and may not be used for dry cleaning, subject to the derogations in the entry	Annex, entry 70 paragraphs 1 to 4
22 June 2026	Regulation (EU) 2026/1168 in force: the microplastics derogations in entry 78 are corrected for medicinal products in clinical trials and for product and process-oriented research and development, applying retroactively from 17 October 2023; the tightened solid-matrix derogation applies from 22 June 2028	Art. 2 and Annex
6 August 2026	Annex XVII entry 77 applies: articles may not be placed on the market if they release more than 0,062 mg/m ³ of formaldehyde (furniture and wood-based articles) or 0,080 mg/m ³ (other articles) under the Appendix 14 test	Annex, entry 77 paragraph 1
10 October 2026	Annex XVII entry 79 applies to consumer clothing and related accessories, footwear, textiles, leather, furs and hides for the public, paper and board food-contact materials, cosmetics and consumer mixtures: 25 ppb for PFHxA and its salts, 1 000 ppb for PFHxA-related substances	Annex, entry 79 paragraph 1
10 May 2027	Annex XVII entry 83 applies: 2,4-dinitrotoluene at 0,1 % or more may no longer be placed on the market in articles for professional users or the public, with exemptions for explosives, military articles, police ammunition, toys, medical devices and food-contact articles	Annex, entry 83 paragraphs 1 and 3
6 August 2027	Annex XVII entry 77 applies to road vehicles: the interior may not release more than 0,062 mg/m ³ of formaldehyde	Annex, entry 77 paragraph 2
31 December 2027	ECHA's compliance-check target: at least 20 % of the registrations in every tonnage band checked	Art. 41(5)

Obligations by role

Manufacturer of a substance

- Register every substance you manufacture at 1 tonne a year or more with ECHA before manufacture, submitting the Annex VI to XI information for the tonnage band jointly with the other registrants of the same substance, and pay the registration fee. Art. 5, Art. 6, Art. 10, Art. 11 and Art. 12
- From 10 tonnes a year carry out a chemical safety assessment, document it in a chemical safety report and attach exposure scenarios for the identified uses to the safety data sheet. Art. 14 and Art. 31(7)
- Keep the registration up to date without undue delay when the tonnage band, composition, uses, classification or hazard knowledge changes, within the deadlines of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1435, and answer ECHA's evaluation decisions on time. Art. 22, Art. 41 and Art. 46; Art. 1 to Art. 3
Art. 22; Art. 1 to Art. 3
- Update the registration without undue delay when the tonnage band, composition, uses, classification or hazard knowledge changes, within the deadlines of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1435.
Art. 22; Art. 1 to Art. 3
- Submit the information ECHA's dossier or substance evaluation decisions require by the deadline they set. Art. 41 and Art. 46
- Supply a safety data sheet in the Annex II format, in an official language of the Member State of supply, for hazardous substances and mixtures, PBT and vPvB substances and Candidate List substances, and Article 32 information for other substances; update it and resend it to recipients of the last 12 months when new hazard, authorisation or restriction information arrives. Art. 31, Art. 32 and Annex II
- Supply a safety data sheet in the Annex II format, in an official language of the Member State of supply, for hazardous substances and mixtures, PBT and vPvB substances and Candidate List substances.
Art. 31(1) to (5) and Annex II
- For substances and mixtures that need no safety data sheet, supply recipients with the Article 32 information: registration number, authorisation or restriction status and the information needed for risk-management measures. Art. 32
- Update the safety data sheet without delay when new hazard, authorisation or restriction information arrives, and send it free of charge to every recipient supplied in the preceding 12 months. Art. 31(9)
- Do not place an Annex XIV substance on the market or use it after its sunset date without an authorisation for that use, and put the authorisation number on the label; do not manufacture, place on the market or use a substance in breach of an Annex XVII restriction. Art. 56, Art. 65 and Art. 67
- Do not place an Annex XIV substance on the market or use it after its sunset date without an authorisation for that use. Art. 56
- Put the authorisation number on the label of an authorised substance, or of a mixture containing it, before placing it on the market. Art. 65
- Do not manufacture, place on the market or use a substance, on its own, in a mixture or in an article, in breach of an Annex XVII restriction. Art. 67 and Annex XVII
- Keep all information needed for your REACH duties for at least 10 years after you last manufactured or supplied the substance, and hand it to the authorities on request. Art. 36

Importer (of substances, mixtures or articles)

- Register every substance you import at 1 tonne a year or more, on its own or in a mixture, before import, unless an only representative appointed by the non-EU manufacturer has registered it and treats you as a downstream user. Art. 5, Art. 6, Art. 8 and Art. 12
- For imported articles, register substances intended to be released at 1 tonne a year or more and notify ECHA of Candidate List substances above 0,1 % weight by weight and 1 tonne a year within six months of their listing, unless you can exclude exposure or the substance is already registered for that use.
Art. 7(1), Art. 7(2), Art. 7(3), Art. 7(6) and Art. 7(7)
- For imported articles, register substances intended to be released at 1 tonne a year or more, unless the substance is already registered for that use. Art. 7(1) and Art. 7(6)
- Notify ECHA of Candidate List substances in imported articles above 0,1 % weight by weight and 1 tonne a year within six months of their listing, unless you can exclude exposure or the substance is already registered for that use. Art. 7(2), Art. 7(3) and Art. 7(7)
- Carry the chemical safety assessment, safety data sheet, authorisation and restriction duties of a manufacturer for the substances and mixtures you import, in the language of the Member State of supply. Art. 14, Art. 31, Art. 32, Art. 56 and Art. 67
- Check every imported article against the Annex XVII entries that name it, including the concentration limits, test methods and application dates, and against the Candidate List before each shipment.
Art. 33, Art. 59(10) and Annex XVII
- Keep the registration, notification and supply-chain information for 10 years after the last import and give it to the authorities on request. Art. 36

Producer of an article

- Register substances intended to be released from your articles when the total exceeds 1 tonne a year, unless the substance is already registered for that use. Art. 7(1) and Art. 7(6)
- Screen your bills of materials against the Candidate List after each update, notify ECHA of substances above 0,1 % weight by weight and 1 tonne a year within six months, and record the article-level calculation (Case C-106/14) for complex products. Art. 7(2), Art. 7(3), Art. 7(7) and Art. 59(10)
- Give every business recipient of an article containing a Candidate List substance above 0,1 % the substance name and the information needed for safe use, and answer consumers within 45 days; since 5 January 2021 the same articles must also be notified to ECHA's SCIP database under the Waste Framework Directive. Art. 33; Art. 9(1)(i) and Art. 9(2)
- Give every business recipient of an article containing a Candidate List substance above 0,1 % weight by weight the substance name and the information needed for safe use. Art. 33(1)
- Answer a consumer's request about a Candidate List substance above 0,1 % in an article free of charge within 45 days. Art. 33(2)
- Notify ECHA's SCIP database of articles containing a Candidate List substance above 0,1 % weight by weight before placing them on the market. Art. 9(1)(i) and Art. 9(2)
- Design and source so that your articles meet the Annex XVII entries that apply to them, tracking the entries with future application dates such as formaldehyde (6 August 2026), PFHxA (10 October 2026) and 2,4-dinitrotoluene (10 May 2027), and use an Annex XIV substance only under an authorisation granted up your supply chain. Art. 56(2), Art. 66 and Annex XVII
- Design and source so that your articles meet the Annex XVII entries that apply to them, tracking the entries with future application dates such as formaldehyde (6 August 2026), PFHxA (10 October 2026) and 2,4-dinitrotoluene (10 May 2027). Art. 67 and Annex XVII
- Use an Annex XIV substance in producing your articles only under an authorisation granted to you or to an actor up your supply chain, within its conditions. Art. 56(2)
- Keep supplier declarations, test reports, notifications and Article 33 communications for 10 years after the last supply. Art. 36

Downstream user (formulator, industrial or professional user) or only representative

- Use each substance within the conditions of the exposure scenarios in the safety data sheet you receive, or prepare your own chemical safety report for an unsupported use and report it to ECHA before starting, and take the risk-management measures the sheet identifies. Art. 37(4), Art. 37(5), Art. 38 and Art. 39
- Pass new information on hazardous properties and on the adequacy of risk-management measures up the supply chain, and pass safety data sheets and Article 32 information down to your own customers when you supply substances or mixtures. Art. 31, Art. 32 and Art. 34
- Pass new information on hazardous properties, and on the adequacy of the risk-management measures in the safety data sheet, to the actor or distributor immediately up the supply chain. Art. 34
- Pass safety data sheets and Article 32 information down to your own customers when you supply substances or mixtures. Art. 31 and Art. 32
- Use an Annex XIV substance only under an authorisation granted to you or to an actor up the supply chain, and notify ECHA within three months of the first supply under someone else's authorisation. Art. 56(2) and Art. 66
- Use an Annex XIV substance only under an authorisation granted to you or to an actor up the supply chain, within its conditions. Art. 56(2)
- Notify ECHA within three months of the first supply of an Annex XIV substance used under an authorisation granted to someone up your supply chain. Art. 66
- As an only representative, hold up-to-date information on the quantities imported and the customers supplied, carry the importers' registration and supply-chain duties and keep the records for 10 years. Art. 8(2) and Art. 36
- As an only representative appointed by a non-EU manufacturer, you carry the importers' registration and supply-chain duties for the substances covered. Art. 8(2)
- Hold up-to-date information on the quantities imported and the customers supplied, and on the latest safety data sheet, and keep it for 10 years. Art. 8(2) and Art. 36

Distributor (wholesaler or retailer)

- Pass the safety data sheet or the Article 32 information you receive on to your own customers, in the language of the Member State of supply, and forward updated sheets when your supplier sends them. Art. 3(32), Art. 31, Art. 32 and Art. 34
- As a supplier of articles, give business customers the Candidate List information you received under Article 33(1) and answer consumers' requests about substances of very high concern within 45 days. Art. 3(33), Art. 33(1) and Art. 33(2)
- As a supplier of articles, give business customers the Candidate List information you received under Article 33(1). Art. 3(33) and Art. 33(1)
- Answer a consumer's request about a substance of very high concern in an article you supply free of charge within 45 days. Art. 33(2)
- Do not place on the market substances, mixtures or articles that breach an Annex XVII restriction, and check that consumer products in your range meet the entries that name them, including the supply-to-the-general-public bans in entries 28 to 30. Art. 67 and Annex XVII
- Keep the information you received and passed on for 10 years after the last supply and make it available to the authorities on request. Art. 36

Penalties

Member States lay down the penalties for infringements of the regulation and take all measures necessary to ensure they are implemented; the penalties must be effective, proportionate and dissuasive and had to be notified to the Commission by 1 December 2008 (Art. 126). National authorities can order withdrawal or recall of non-compliant products and prohibit further supply under the market-surveillance powers of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020, which lists REACH in its Annex I, and ECHA can revoke registration numbers and reject incomplete dossiers, which stops manufacture or import (Art. 5 and Art. 20). In Denmark the Chemicals Act punishes infringements with fines and, for intentional or grossly negligent breaches that cause harm or an obvious risk of harm to health or the environment, with imprisonment of up to two years.

Art. 5, Art. 20, Art. 125 and Art. 126; Art. 14, Art. 16 and Annex I

Checklist

1. Classify each product as a substance, a mixture or an article under Article 3, and check whether an Article 2 exemption or a sector regime (medicinal products, food, feed, cosmetics, medical devices) narrows which titles apply.
2. Decide your role per product: manufacturer, importer (or downstream user behind an only representative), producer of an article, downstream user or distributor, remembering that each legal entity that imports is an importer in its own right (Articles 3 and 8).
3. For substances and mixtures you manufacture or import, list every substance with its annual tonnage, confirm a valid registration covers your tonnage band and uses, and update it within the deadlines of Regulation (EU) 2020/1435 (Articles 5, 6, 12 and 22).
4. For articles, check every bill of materials against the current Candidate List after each ECHA update, apply the 0,1 % threshold per article (Case C-106/14) and notify ECHA within six months when the 1 tonne threshold is also met (Article 7).
5. Set up Article 33 communication: the substance name and safe-use information to business customers with every delivery, a 45-day process for consumer requests, and the SCIP notification under the Waste Framework Directive.
6. Map the Annex XVII entries that name your products and note the entries with future dates: D4, D5 and D6 (6 June 2026), formaldehyde in articles (6 August 2026), PFHxA in consumer textiles, footwear, food-contact paper and cosmetics (10 October 2026), 2,4-dinitrotoluene (10 May 2027) and formaldehyde in vehicles (6 August 2027).
7. Check that no Annex XIV substance is used or supplied past its sunset date without an authorisation, and notify ECHA within three months when you rely on an upstream authorisation (Articles 56 and 66).
8. Keep safety data sheets in the Annex II format and in the language of the market, pass exposure scenarios down and new hazard information up, and confirm your uses are covered (Articles 31, 32, 34 and 37).
9. Collect supplier declarations and test reports per article and homogeneous material for the restricted substances, and keep everything for 10 years after the last supply (Article 36).
10. Follow the amendments to Annex XVII, the twice-yearly Candidate List updates and the Commission's REACH revision, and record the review in your compliance calendar.

Sources

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4. Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging (CLP) (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008R1272>
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12. Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/1090 on DMAC and NEP (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32025R1090>
13. Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/1731 on CMR substances subject to restrictions (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32025R1731>
14. Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/1988 on PFAS in firefighting foams (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32025R1988>
15. Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/859 on 2,4-dinitrotoluene in articles (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32026R0859>
16. Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/1168 amending the microplastics entry (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32026R1168>
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