

Development of a Technical Guidance Document for Downstream Users of chemical substances (REACH Implementation Project 3.5-2)

Commissioned by:
European Commission

Carried out by:
Okopol GmbH

In co-operation with:
RPA Ltd, DHI Water & Environment, HSE consult

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Background

The future new regulation on "Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)" puts responsibility on industry for the safe manufacture, import and use of chemicals throughout the chemical supply chain. In future, many safety data sheets of dangerous substances and preparations will contain additional information. Furthermore, exposure scenarios will be communicated with some of the safety data sheets. These exposure scenarios will describe the operational conditions of use and risk management measures that will ensure that the risks from the use of a substance are adequately controlled throughout the entire life-cycle. Downstream users must either implement the conditions described in the exposure scenario or adopt other approaches to ensure that risks are controlled. Therefore, the users of substances also assume responsibility for a safe application of a substance.

Objectives and tasks

This project has two main objectives:

- To (further) develop processes, documentation formats and instruments for implementing REACH by downstream users
- To provide a guidance document for downstream users of substances, which explains the REACH requirements in a comprehensibly manner and provides concrete support for implementation

The project is divided into four work packages. In the first work package, the key issues of this project will be elaborated in working papers, taking account of results of the scoping study as well as experience from other projects. In work package 2, the working documents and instruments will be further developed and should serve as the basis for a focused discussion with stakeholders as well as providing materials for case studies. In the 3rd work package, key issues will be discussed with different types of downstream users in different sectors, in order to test the guidance elements (six case studies). In the final work package, experience and results of the project will be merged and elaborated to provide the final guidance document.

The work will be assisted by a stakeholder expert group consisting of representatives from industry, member states and other interested parties.

Expected results

The main result of this project should be a technical guidance document for downstream users, making the requirements of REACH comprehensible and realizable to downstream users.

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