

Subject : Clariant Masterbatches' position on REACH – Information to Customers

Clariant REACH Communication Division Masterbatches

1. REACH in general

The REACH legislation (Registration, Evaluation, and Authorization of Chemical) was adopted by the European institutions in December 2006, and it will enter into force progressively from the 1st of June 2007.

The main objectives addressed by REACH:

- Protection of human health and the environment
- Promotion of non-animal testing
- Conformity with WTO rules
- Increased transparency
- Prevention of a fragmented internal market
- Maintenance and enhancement of the EU chemical industry's competitiveness.

The full legal text of REACH (English version) covers 849 pages, technical guidance (TGD) is expected to comprise at least 5,000 pages. Any exchange of information along the supply chain with respect to concrete exposure data, identified uses and safety data sheets therefore should not be initiated before the TGD is available.

2. Clariant's preparation for REACH

Clariant was among the first companies to proactively follow the REACH preparation and implementation process. The Clariant REACH organization today comprises a high-level steering committee with members of the Clariant Main Board, an Operating Committee responsible for managing the REACH implementation process, and a number of functional and cross-functional expert teams.

Clariant experts are active members of a number of working groups dedicated to REACH, e.g. within Cefic, national chemical federations, and industry associations.

3. Clariant's position on REACH

With REACH the European Chemical Industry has an opportunity to demonstrate its professionalism in product management and handling practices to ensure chemical safety.

Clariant has supported the general objectives set by the European Commission from the beginning: "Ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment as well as the free movement of substances, on their own, in preparations and in articles, while enhancing competitiveness and innovation." REACH bears opportunities for the whole chemical industry: to close data gaps, reduce risks associated with hazardous substances, foster R&D, and improve the image of chemistry as a whole.



4. Clariant's Masterbatches product portfolio under REACH

The forthcoming implementation of REACH will introduce principal changes in regulating chemical substances throughout the whole value chain:

1. Manufacture or Import of Chemicals inside the EU territory will be permitted only for Registered Substances (existing or new).
2. Registration of the substances will be the responsibility of Manufacturer or Importer. They will evaluate (and communicate to Downstream Users) the safe and correct use conditions for the registered substance along the supply chain.
3. Both, Manufacturers and Downstream Users (DU) along the supply chain will be responsible for a safe and correct use of the Chemicals.
4. Downstream Users will be required to provide sufficient information to the Producer, Importer, or other Downstream User who has supplied the substance, in order to conduct a Chemical Safety Assessment to enable the registration of the substance for a specific use.

The manufacturer of preparations/mixtures (such as masterbatches) will have to rely on the suppliers of every raw material to register their substances, including registration specifically for the processes of making masterbatches under defined conditions for specific markets.

Clariant Masterbatches, as a Downstream User, has started a careful review of all chemicals used and their applications, in order to duly instruct our materials suppliers for a correct registration process complying with REACH requirements. In this process, for specific cases, we might be obliged to contact also our customers (DU) for a closer information and application specification, in order to ensure full conformity with the REACH registration in the areas of our customers' interests.

5. Information in the supply chain

REACH requires substantial and valid information to be exchanged in the supply chain: The duties of information communication are described in several articles of REACH. They define the obligations of Manufacturers/Importers and Downstream Users; that is of suppliers and customers.

Clariant prefers to exchange information via standardized formats: Cefic is preparing such questionnaires which can be used to facilitate the co-operation between companies.

6. Clariant's next actions

The communication up- and downstream will commence when the TGDs have clarified the REACH requirements. Clariant will support its customers and suppliers to implement REACH, and Clariant is committed to act as a fair partner to the competent authorities.

Clariant Masterbatches (Italia) S.p.A.

Dr. E. Gremmo



R. Facchinetti

