

Geberit's REACH Compliance

Geberit AG, Rapperswil-Jona (Switzerland), April 2011

Background

The new EU chemicals regulation REACH (Regulation EC 1907/2006) is focused on the protection of the environment and human health as well as the safe handling of chemicals. The regulation has taken effect on 1 June 2007 and relates to all chemicals (substances such as sodium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid, etc.), including those that have already been in circulation for a long time. REACH stands for the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemicals. The implementation of REACH will take several years. All substances are to be registered by 1 July 2018. The so-called preregistration phase runs from 1 June 2008 to 30 November 2008 – subsequently these substances will be definitively registered, evaluated and authorized. This will occur at the newly established Chemicals Agency in Helsinki (ECHA). Products (computers, cisterns, drainpipes, etc.) as such are not required to be registered. Substances of very high concern are listed either on the candidate list for authorization or within Annex XIV of this regulation. Substances on the candidate list are subject to reporting requirements within the supply chain. Substances listed in Annex XIV are required to be authorized or may be subject to restrictions on use. Communication within the supply chain is a central element of REACH to ensure the necessary information for the safe handling of chemicals. In this context, the safety data sheet is an important instrument.

Eco-design at Geberit

Geberit has been considering environmental aspects in its product development activities for many years. Its longstanding experience in the area of product lifecycle assessments helps identify weaknesses. Systematically held Eco-design workshops for all new products are just as important. Here it is assured that new products are also continuously improved from an ecological point of view and that statutory regulations are complied with.

Geberit and REACH

Geberit has addressed the REACH issue at an early stage and established a special task force. The situation analysis shows that Geberit is only affected by REACH as a downstream user and as importer.

Geberit produces neither chemicals (substances) nor preparations, nor imports relevant quantities to the EU. Therefore, Geberit is **not subject to the registration requirement**.

As a downstream user, we must rely on and have a clear interest in our suppliers registering their chemicals to ensure supply reliability and the quality of Geberit products and thus also Geberit's compliance with the laws. As an importer of small amounts of preparations into the EU we make sure in close cooperation with our suppliers that all raw materials of the imported preparations are registered accordingly. Additionally we comply with our responsibility to indicate within our sales documents, where applicable, if substances of very high concern according to the candidate list or Annex XIV are contained.

With respect to its supply chain, Geberit places great value on good and environmentally aware suppliers. In the context of the signing of the Geberit supplier code of conduct, our suppliers agree to protect the environment and comply with the laws. Compliance is verified on an ongoing basis on the occasion of visits, talks and audits. These trust-based supplier relations form an important basis for ensuring REACH compliance along the supply chain. In addition, we have questioned our major suppliers with respect to REACH and obtained from them confirmations relating to REACH compliance.

Area of application

This compliance applies to all EU countries as well as to Switzerland and Norway and relates to all products of Geberit.