



Immediate risk management suggested for 300 harmful chemicals

ECHA/NR/22/13

Assessing chemicals in groups has sped up authorities' work, with assessments for 1 900 substances finalised in 2021. For around 300 of these, risk management actions could begin immediately.

Helsinki, 17 June 2022 – ECHA's fourth report under its Integrated Regulatory Strategy has been released, showing that considerable progress has been made on accelerating the pace at which regulatory actions are identified for substances of concern.

In 2021, assessments were finalised for more than 1 900 substances, mostly grouped based on their structural similarity. This was 30 % more than in 2020. Around 300 of these substances require risk management measures, while 800 do not currently require further action. The remaining 800 need more data to be generated, and around 350 of these are expected to move to risk management in the future.

Since group assessments became the focus, from 2019 to the end of 2021, a total of about 3 800 substances have been assessed – including 134 phthalate and phthalate-like substances and 148 bisphenols. The first batch of 19 group assessments was published at the end of 2021 and covered more than 450 substances.

Around 25 % of the assessed substances require further risk management. Some need to be restricted and have been included to the European Commission's Restrictions Roadmap. The assessments will continue to feed into the roadmap and directly contribute to the aims of the EU's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability and the Green Deal.

This leaves 75 % where no further regulatory action is currently needed, because they are low hazard, the potential for exposure is limited or there are already risk management measures in place.

But hazards need to be confirmed before risk management actions can start, and more data is often first needed. Companies need to proactively update their registrations with up-to-date information to avoid regulatory actions being planned based on outdated data.

ECHA's report also highlights a steep increase in substances needing harmonised classification and labelling (CLH), with the number tripling in 2021 compared to 2020. With CLH often a prerequisite for moving ahead with further regulatory measures, authorities must dedicate sufficient resources and start preparing proposals for these substances to avoid creating a regulatory backlog.

The regulatory needs of almost 1 300 high-volume substances (above 100 tonnes per year) remain to be assessed.

Recommendations

Member States need to dedicate resources to work on substances that need further regulatory action without delay – particularly for harmonised classification and labelling.

Member States and ECHA should intensify collaboration so they can discuss and agree on which substances to prioritise. They should also use the Commission's Restrictions Roadmap to identify candidates for restriction.

Companies should proactively review and update data in their registration dossiers, as the information they provide is the basis for the assessment of regulatory needs.

Background

ECHA's Integrated Regulatory Strategy aims to speed up data generation, identification of groups of substances of concern, and regulatory action. It does so by integrating different regulatory processes into one coherent approach to manage chemical risks effectively and efficiently. The strategy also encourages collaboration between ECHA, Member States and the European Commission.

The goal of the strategy is to clarify which registered substances are a high priority for regulatory risk management or data generation, and which are currently a low priority for further regulatory action.

ECHA's Safer Chemicals Podcast

Group assessment identifies need for restriction of bisphenols

FURTHER INFORMATION

Faster action on groups of harmful chemicals - Integrated Regulatory Strategy Annual Report [PDF]
[EN]

Finding the most effective ways to manage chemical risks ECHA article

Bisphenols hot topics page

Assessing chemicals in groups: faster action on harmful chemicals Safer Chemicals Podcast

Group assessment of bisphenols identifies need for restriction News release, 6 April 2022

First assessments of regulatory needs for groups of chemicals published News release, 7 December 2021

Restrictions Roadmap

Voir »

A PROPOS DE L'AGENCE

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Comment nous travaillons

Emplois

Marchés

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations dans le cadre de la procédure d'autorisation

Identification des substances extrêmement préoccupantes

Projet de recommandation pour l'inclusion dans la liste d'autorisation et la consultation

Demandes d'autorisation

Restrictions soumises actuellement à l'examen

Appels à soumettre commentaires et preuves

Propositions d'essais

Classification et étiquetage harmonisés - consultations

Consultations ciblant la classification et l'étiquetage harmonisés

Consultation suite à la demande du directeur exécutif de l'ECHA

Consultation sur les éventuelles substances dont la substitution est envisagée

INFORMATION SUR LES PRODUITS CHIMIQUES

Registry of CLH intentions until outcome

Registry of restriction intentions until outcome

Registry of SVHC intentions until outcome

Substances enregistrées

Annexe III – inventaire

Substances pré-enregistrées

Inventaire CE

État d'avancement de l'évaluation des dossiers

PACT - Outil de coordination des activités publiques

Évaluation des besoins réglementaires - liste

PBT assessment list

Endocrine disruptor assessment list

Évaluation des substances - plan d'action continu communautaire

DOCUMENTS ET INFORMATIONS D'APPUI

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Soutien questions-réponses

Méthodes d'essai et alternatives

Webinaires

Outils pour la soumission des données

Services d'assistance nationaux

Exemples pratiques de scénarios d'exposition

Exemples pratiques de rapports sur la sécurité chimique

Petites et moyennes entreprises (PME)

Recommandations aux déclarants

Phases d'enregistrement

Identification de la substance

Restriction

Autorisation

Analyse socio-économique dans REACH