



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# UK REACH at the end of the Transition Period

Simon Johnson (Defra Chemicals Comms Team)





## What UK REACH means for industry

- **Both the UK and EU would operate REACH**, but the two systems would not be linked in any way.
- Businesses will need to take steps to ensure regulatory requirements are fulfilled on both sides of the Channel in order to maintain continuity of supply chains.
- Companies from both markets would have ‘third country’ status in the other.
- UK companies procuring chemicals directly from EU/EEA suppliers, will change from downstream users to importers under UK REACH.



## Establishing UK REACH

- From 1 January 2021 the UK will put in place its own independent chemicals regulatory framework, UK REACH.
- There are 3 main building blocks:
  - Legislation
  - IT System
  - Capability and Capacity



## Actions for Business: Access to the UK Market - Transitional Measures

- All existing UK-held EU REACH registrations, authorisations, and imported substances (from EEA/EU) will remain valid at the end of the Transition Period.
  - Existing UK-held EU REACH registrants have **120 days** to provide UK authorities with some initial information.
  - We have extended the deadline for importers of substances from EU based registrants by a further 120 days. These registrants now have **300 days** to provide UK authorities with some initial information.
- Companies then have **2, 4 or 6 years** beginning after those 300 days for full registrations to be completed
- These deadlines are dependent on tonnage bands and hazard profile, with the highest tonnage and most hazardous chemicals first.



Deadline Post 28 October 2021	Tonnage	Hazardous Property
2 years from 28 October 2021	1000 tonnes or more per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction (CMRs) - 1 tonne or more per year</li><li>● Very toxic to aquatic organisms (acute or chronic) - 100 tonnes or more per year</li><li>● Candidate list substances (as at 31 December 2020)</li></ul>
4 years from 28 October 2021	100 tonnes or more per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Candidate list substances (as at 27 October 2023)</li></ul>
6 years from 28 October 2021	1 tonne or more per year	



## Grace Period Deadline Extensions

- We have always said that we would keep the transition process under review and work closely with a broad range of stakeholders to do so.
- We listened to industry's concerns about the previous timelines for supplying data to the UK regulator and have extended the deadlines set in legislation from **180 to 300 days for UK importers of goods from the EU.**
- This provides UK importers to use these first 120 days to establish how UK based suppliers have assumed registration obligations and whether they need to do so themselves.
- Despite this extension, registrants under UK REACH will still carry the same obligations to submit data to the UK regulator



## Maintaining EU/EEA Market Access and Making New Registrations

- REACH registrations and existing EU authorisations decisions held by UK entities would no longer be valid under EU REACH after the Transition Period.
- UK registration holders would need to transfer their registration to an EU-27/EEA Legal Entity.
- Alternatively, EU/EEA companies may register the substance themselves as an importer.
- **To register a new chemical for the EU/EEA and UK markets businesses would need to register with both REACH regimes.**



## Data Sharing

- We have always been clear that we want industry to replicate joint registrations as is currently the case in the EU.
- Joint registrations are a way of reducing costs to business and help remove the need for additional testing, especially on vertebrate animals.
- We have worked with industry stakeholders to develop the UK process and supporting IT tools.
- Registrants will be placed in specific substance groups which will allow them to start data sharing negotiations and assign a lead registrant.





## Negotiations

- The UK is looking to negotiate a deal like those the EU has previously struck with other friendly countries like Canada and negotiations are ongoing.
- We have set out in our approach to negotiations specifically relating to a Chemicals Annex, that a deal should ensure high levels of protection for the environment and human and animal health.
- It also puts forward that, to support industry, the UK and EU could agree data and information sharing mechanisms.



## To sum up we recommend that UK and EU businesses:

- Identify the chemicals they manufacture, sell or use and their regulatory responsibilities with respect to that chemical in the UK market.
- Check plans across their supply chain to understand what information they may need to provide to maintain UK and EU market access.
- Consider appropriate actions if the status of existing EU REACH registrations or authorisations could change.



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## Contact us

- If there are further queries or they wish to receive occasional updates related to EU Exit and Chemicals, contact: [REACH-IT@defra.gov.uk](mailto:REACH-IT@defra.gov.uk)