

#### REACH Overview

REACH (Regulation, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals) entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007 to streamline and improve the former legislative framework on chemicals of the European Union (EU). REACH places greater responsibility on industry to manage the risks that chemicals may pose to health and the environment.

In principle REACH applies to all chemicals: not only chemicals used in industrial processes but also in our day-to-day life, for example in cleaning products, paints as well as in articles such as clothes, furniture and electrical appliances.

#### REACH Objectives

The aims of REACH are to:

- Improve the protection of human health and the environment from the risks that can be posed by chemicals
- Enhance the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry, a key sector for the economy of the EU
- Promote alternative methods for the assessment of hazards of substances
- Ensure the free circulation of substances on the internal market of the European Union

#### Glossary of REACH terms used in this statement

*"Article" 3(3)*: an object which during production is given a special shape, surface or design which determines its function to a greater degree than does its chemical composition.

*"Candidate List"*: substances that are included in the Candidate List have been identified as Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC).

*"SVHC"*: substances which may have very serious and often irreversible effects on humans and the environment. Substances are added to the Candidate List by the ECHA (European Chemicals Agency). Substances on the Candidate List may subsequently become subject to authorization by decision of the European Commission.