

REACH Regulations

REACH is a regulation of the EU, adopted in June 2007, to control chemical substances. It stands for Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals, and regulates, evaluates, authorizes and restricts the chemical substances produced and used within the EU.

The basic mechanisms of the REACH regulations are as follows:

- (1) Article 6 - Obligation to register
If the amount of a chemical substance that a business operator manufactures or imports in the EU for a year is 1 ton or more, the substance shall be "registered."
- (2) Article 23 - Phased regulation of existing substance
The existing substance is a substance distributed within the EU and has a grace period applicable when it is registered.
- (3) Article 11, 28, 29, 30 - Sharing of toxicity information
Multiple business operators are required to share data on the same existing substances and jointly submit toxicity information etc.
- (4) Article 7 - Registration and notification of substances in articles, Article 33 - Communication of information on substances in articles, Article 59 - Substances of Very High Concern
There are three main subjects within the REACH regulation: Substance, Preparation and Mixture, and Articles. For Articles, if the contained amount of substances of very high concern (SVHC) exceeds 0.1%, and the annual treated amount is 1 ton or more, the notification of them shall be submitted to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). For Articles, if a request is also received from clients or consumers, the business operator shall provide them with the information on the substances contained within 45 days.
- (5) Article 56 - Authorization
The ECHA selects substances subject to authorization from the chemical substances included in the SVHC list. The chemical substances selected as the substances subject to authorization cannot be used in the EU without obtaining a permission for use with the applications, etc., specified.

*** The item (4)&(5) above is the most closely related to the electric wires and cables.**

Substances of very high concern (SVHC)

The process of registration of SVHC subject to authorization is outlined below.
Candidate SVHC (public comment) → Candidate List (list of candidate substances subject to authorization) → "Substances subject to authorization" → "Description in Annex XIV"

In the 32th SVHC Candidate List (list of candidate substances subject to authorization) announced on January 21, 2025, the number of substances subject to authorization is 247, and the presentation of information in Item (4) is required. In addition, the obligation to notify information on Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) contained in products subject to the Waste Framework Directive has been in force since January 5, 2021. [Obligation to register in the SCIP database]

Annex XIV List of Substances Subject

The substances subject to authorization cannot be used without obtaining a permission with the applications, etc., specified.

The number of substances subject to authorization with the Sunset date, announced on September 20, 2024, determined is 79.

*Four phthalic acid ester materials (DEHP, DBP, BBP, DIBP), deeply related to the electric wire cables, have been formally determined as substances subject to authorization and, therefore, cannot be used without obtaining a permission again through the application for authorization in (5) except for the products whose applications are authorized.

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

This agency carries out the operation and coordination of procedures for the registration, evaluation, authorization, and restriction of chemical substances under the REACH regulations and assumes the role of giving scientific and technical advice to EU member countries and agencies about chemical substances targeted for REACH regulations.