



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

UK REACH

Recap and where are we today?

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Environment
Agency



Forestry Commission



NATURAL
ENGLAND

Overview

- Background
- Alternative Transitional Registration Model (ATRm)
- PFAS
- Authorisations and Restrictions
- UK REACH Work Programme

Background

- The chemicals industry accounts for £14 billion of the United Kingdom's economy's Gross Added Value (GVA) and directly employs 98,000 people and supports the employment of a further 183,000 people indirectly.
- Following EU Exit, the UK implemented its own independent chemicals regulatory framework, including UK REACH, from 1 January 2021.
- UK REACH retains the core principles of EU REACH.
- Existing EU REACH registrations, authorisations and restrictions were grandfathered into UK REACH.
- Defra leads on UK REACH policy, while the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is the UK REACH Agency, leading on operations and enforcement.

Alternative Transitional Registration Model (ATRm): 1

- We initially grandfathered approx. 9,600 registrations across from EU REACH for ~20K substances.
- In December 2021 Defra announced our intention to explore alternative arrangements for the second stage of UK REACH transitional registrations.
- The Alternative Transitional Registration model (ATRm) has two aims:
 - to reduce overall costs, especially cost of renegotiating access to data; and
 - to be better able to identify and respond to GB risks.
- The model being proposed would reduce the need for companies to access existing EU REACH hazard data packages and place a greater emphasis on improving our understanding of the uses and exposures of chemicals in the GB context.
- To allow time for the policy development and legislation work, the transitional registration deadlines were extended this year to October 27th 2026, 2028, and 2030. We expect to consult on more detail in the coming months.

Alternative Transitional Registration Model (ATRm): 2

Use and Exposure

- Two levels of information additional to the existing Annex VI requirements identified:
 - **Possible additional information** under ATR: More granular information on uses; approach focused on an entire use; sufficient data to allow a qualitative risk assessment by the regulators; use ranges to describe some numerical parameters
 - **Possible enhanced requirements** (for specific registrations types e.g. certain hazard classes): Approach based on contributing scenarios (activities within a use); sufficient data to allow a quantitative risk assessment by the regulators; use exact numbers to describe some parameters
- These could be applied to all registrations, or by a targeted approach based on substance hazard and/or registration tonnage, etc.

Alternative Transitional Registration Model (ATRm): 3

Consultancy & other work

- Worked with WSP/Yordas to develop hazard profile / use & exposure requirements
 - Series of in-depth interviews with a range of companies to test ideas
- Phase 2 consultancy now focusing on use & exposure:
 - Setting out all use & exposure requirements under ATR model
 - Advice on how to apply it, e.g. legislation, guidance, IUCLID rules
 - Consideration of time requirements
 - Advice on key guidance and support tools

Alternative Transitional Registration Model (ATRm): 4

Next Steps

- Announcement over the next few weeks to confirm direction of travel
- Consultation end 23 / start 24. To set out detail of hazard, use & exposure, other related elements of ATR. Will also look at ATR against Environmental Principles. Accompanied by Impact Assessment
- Draft legislation: mid 2024 to come into force by end 2024

PFAS

- PFAS is a top priority for the UK Government and has been a key part of the UK REACH Work Programmes to date.
- On 4 April 2023, we welcomed the HSE's publication of the PFAS Regulatory Management Options Analysis (RMOA), which represents a significant milestone in the UK's efforts to protect people and the environment. The RMOA is a key part of our efforts to protect us from these persistent chemicals.
- The RMOA's recommendations include progressing work to reduce PFAS emissions by developing UK REACH restrictions, beginning with a restriction on PFAS in fire-fighting foams, and exploring further restrictions covering a wide range of industrial and consumer uses.

Authorisations and Restrictions

- The SVHC Candidate list and substances on the Authorisation List, that were in force, were carried over from EU REACH to UK REACH on 1st January 2021.
- DEFRA have since published 10 decisions on transitional applications for authorisation and 4 decisions on applications for authorisation submitted under UK REACH with an HSE opinion. HSE has received 44 applications for authorisation under UK REACH. UK REACH Authorisations decisions are published on GOV.uk.
- Under UK REACH the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs makes decisions to restrict substances, based on the scientific opinion of the HSE. These decisions will be published on GOV.UK.
- We are currently progressing work on UK REACH restrictions on lead in ammunition and tattoo inks & permanent make-up.

UK REACH Work Programme

- UK Government has sought to focus our UK REACH Work Programme activities on those issues which are most effectively addressed through UK REACH, and where action would have the greatest impact for human health and the environment in GB.
- We are therefore pursuing a programme of work on a wide range of hazardous substances, including flame retardants, bisphenols in thermal paper, and formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers in consumer articles, to gather GB-specific evidence of risks and exposure pathways.



UK REACH Guidance

- HSE Helpdesk: ukreach.clp@hse.gov.uk (for technical queries and questions relating to registration and dossier submission)
- ChemicalsPolicy@defra.gov.uk (for questions relating to UK REACH policy and engagement)
- Many thanks for listening – happy to take any questions!