

24 April 2008

Ref: The EPMA informs the PM community about REACH and the critical importance of Pre-Registration

Dear Sir/Madam,

You may already know the REACH Regulation and its direct or indirect implication for your company. However, the EPMA would like to explain, in a few lines, the importance of REACH and especially its first milestone: Pre-registration.

REACH¹ stands for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals and came into force on 1 June 2007. It is a new European law designed to make companies register the details of chemicals in a newly formed central European Chemical Agency (ECHA). It affects anyone in the European Union who produces, trades, processes or consumes any "chemical" including metals and alloys for more than 1 tonne per year.

The REACH regulation requires all manufacturers in Europe and importers into Europe to register, using detailed technical dossiers about each substance. The dossiers will have to include their properties, assessment of their impacts on environment and human health, and recommend risk reduction measures.

The first important milestone is the Pre-Registration period between June and December 2008. Manufacturers and Importers must pre-register their substance(s) within these 6 months to benefit from postponed deadlines for Registration. Without Pre-Registration, it will be illegal after December 2008 for manufacturers and importers to place substances on the market. It is strongly recommended that Manufacturers and Importers (e.g. powder and lubricant producers) pre-register. Their Customers (e.g. Parts Makers) should also ensure that Manufacturers and Importers pre-register.

To assist your company in its strategy concerning REACH, the EPMA offers on its web site (www.epma.com) an introduction to REACH and a short guide to the Pre-Registration to download in the REACH area. The EPMA is also organising a REACH Workshop for the PM industry on 29/30 May 2008 in Brussels (for EPMA members only).

If you need any further information on REACH, please contact the EPMA at info@epma.com.

Yours sincerely,

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¹ Further details of the legislation can be downloaded from the following website: <http://echa.europa.eu/>