



ECHA/PR/08/06

Helsinki, 8 May 2008

The initial scope of the REACH-IT release prudently defined

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has decided to limit the first production release of REACH-IT to company sign-up and online pre-registration. Notification, inquiry and registration need to be submitted initially via temporary procedures after 1 June, when the REACH Regulation enters into operation. Detailed guidance on these procedures will be published on the ECHA website during the week of 19 May.

The Executive Director of ECHA, Mr Geert Dancet informed industry and Member States representatives during the REACH-IT stakeholder workshop of 7 May that ECHA has taken the conservative decision on the scope of REACH-IT at entry into operation of the REACH Regulation. He explained that: "Due to instability of the current REACH-IT version delivered by the contractor, the first production release of REACH-IT will only cover company sign up and online pre-registration. The chosen scope is to ensure reliability and security of the IT system when it goes live on 1 June."

Importantly, ECHA will ensure that industry will be able to fulfil all their obligations in addition to pre-registration upon REACH entering into operation on 1 June, namely PPORD notification, inquiry and registration. During the initial period, these submissions need be carried out using means other than REACH-IT. ECHA is encouraging companies to continue their preparations in IUCLID 5 that will also support the temporary procedures. In parallel, ECHA is making all efforts to have REACH-IT fully operational at earliest possible while the priority is to safeguard on-line pre-registration in June.

ECHA will communicate the alternative procedures during the week of 19 May. The main channel of communication will be the ECHA website, but the information will also be disseminated via national REACH helpdesks, Member State Authorities, Commission and industry organisations.

The REACH-IT workshop of 7 May 2008 was attended by 52 participants from industry and the EU Member State Competent Authorities. It covered the current status of REACH-IT build, IUCLID 5, CSA/CSR tool and the industry IT systems.

The presentations can be accessed from 14 May at: http://echa.europa.eu/news/events_en.asp

REACH-IT related questions should be addressed to: reach-ITworkshop@echa.europa.eu

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