

Friday, 15 June 2007

## **Software helping chemical industry to comply with REACH is now ready for download**

The European Commission has today released IUCLID 5 as part of its preparation for REACH and the new European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). It is a key software application essential for chemical industry to comply with the new legislation, which entered into force on 1 June 2007. The freely downloadable tool will assist chemical companies globally in fulfilling their obligation to submit data to the Agency under the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) legislation from 1 June 2008.

REACH starts a new era of how chemical industry and EU authorities co-operate in order to improve safety and control of production, import and use of chemicals in Europe. From 1 June 2008, chemical producers and importers will face the obligation to pre-register existing chemical substances in order to benefit from later registration, and to register new chemical substances to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki. If a company fails to submit a REACH registration dossier on a substance within the relevant regulatory deadline this company cannot produce in, or import this substance to, the European market.

Without an appropriate IT tool, it would be extremely difficult for industry, especially for small and medium enterprises, to comply with the REACH data requirements. In order to structure these requirements, REACH requires a specific reporting format, namely the IUCLID (International Uniform Chemical Information Database) format. The European Commission has therefore since 2004 managed - as part of the REACH implementation strategy - the analysis, design and build of the IUCLID 5 software.

Stakeholders - chemical industry, Member State Competent Authorities, OECD and NGOs - were closely involved in the development of IUCLID 5, which now allows entering, managing, storing and exchanging the REACH required data on intrinsic and hazard properties of chemical substances. It also facilitates the creation of dossiers to comply with REACH.

Although partially re-using concepts also seen in earlier IUCLID versions, IUCLID 5 is a complete new development, based on state-of-the art technology. However, stakeholders can easily migrate data from IUCLID 4 to IUCLID 5.

The IUCLID 5 software can now be obtained free of charge from the <http://iuclid.eu> server. The download of the IUCLID 5 installation kit is easy, and a professional service desk - also free of charge - will address stakeholder questions on the technical aspects of the IUCLID application. Downloading the software is subject to accepting a Licence Agreement.

Data stored in IUCLID 5 can be used for a large number of purposes. The data storage formats implemented have been developed in co-operation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and have been accepted by many national and international regulatory authorities. The use of IUCLID 5 for non-REACH jurisdictions is therefore explicitly endorsed. The fact that data in IUCLID5 can be used for other purposes than REACH may offset some of the data collection costs.

The IUCLID 5 data model also allows for data collected under REACH to be re-used – once complemented with data on biocidal or pesticidal properties - for data reporting obligations under the EU biocidal products legislation. Similarly, data in IUCLID 5 can be used to prepare dossiers for the OECD High Production Volume (HPV) Chemicals Programme.

Companies can now download IUCLID 5 and prepare their data dossiers. First registrations will be submitted to the ECHA from 1 June 2008.

**Further information:**

Information on REACH is available at:

European Chemicals Agency website <http://echa.europa.eu>

Information on IUCLID5 is available at:

IUCLID 5 website <http://iuclid.eu/>