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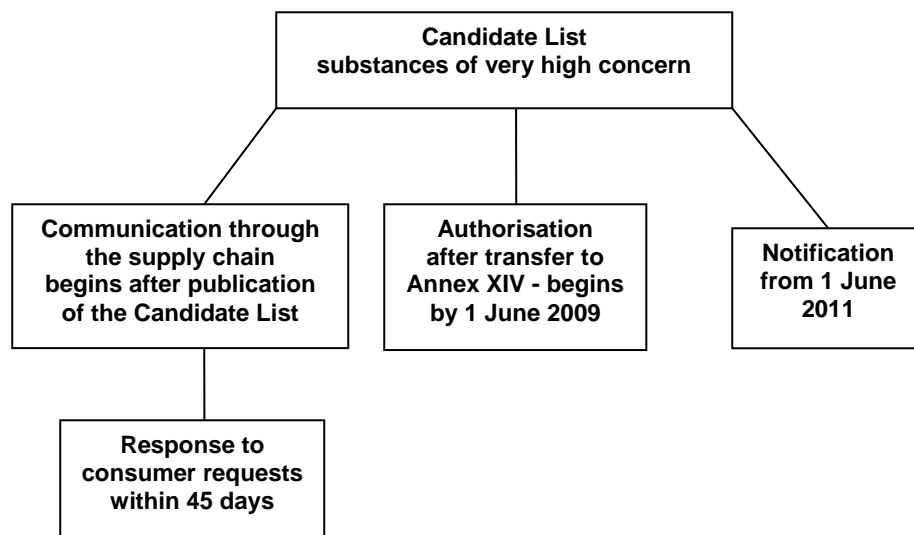
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The REACH Candidate List

Under REACH, substances can be added to an official Candidate List of substances of very high concern (SVHC). A substance may then be considered for priority addition to Annex XIV* for authorisation. While authorisation can allow for the continued use of a substance on a case-by-case basis, most uses are expected to be banned over time. However, appearing on the Candidate List triggers immediate responsibilities for supply chain communication and potential eventual notification.



Substances of very high concern can include substances classified as CMR Category 1 + 2, PBT's, vPvB's and R50/53.

CMR indicates a carcinogenic, mutagenic or reproductive toxins (Category 1 relating to substances known to be carcinogenic to humans) and Category 2 (relating to substances that should be regarded as if they are carcinogenic to humans).

PBT persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic

vPvB's persistent and very bio-accumulative

R50/53: a risk phrase assigned to those substances that are classified as "very toxic to aquatic organisms, may cause long term adverse effects in aquatic environment".

Other indications of hazardous properties such as endocrine disruptors or respiratory sensitisers can also result in a substance being deemed to be of very high concern to human health and the environment.



The European Chemical Agency (ECHA) published the first Candidate List on their website www.echa.europa.eu on 28 October 2008. ECHA has recently made a first recommendation of priority substances to be subject to authorisation via inclusion in Annex XIV of the REACH Regulation.

Further recommendations on substances to be included on the Candidate List and then added to Annex XIV will continue during REACH implementation. As a minimum an updated Candidate List is expected at least once a year. Substances with PBT or vPvB properties that are manufactured or imported in high volumes and that have a wide potential exposure profile are likely to be scrutinized as priority.

Authorisation will be assigned by the European Commission, taking guidance from the European Chemicals Agency and following consultation with Member States. A substance will be authorised per identified use to ensure that any risks are effectively managed. Authorisation may be denied, granted in full or only granted for a limited number of uses depending upon the applicant's ability to demonstrate that adequate controls can be implemented or that socioeconomic benefits outweigh the risks and that there are no viable alternatives. A particular use of a substance may be banned if adequate control measures cannot be demonstrated and the risk to human health and the environment is considered as being too high. Individual authorisations will be reviewed after a certain time period, decided upon a case by case basis.

Producers, importers and suppliers of articles containing Candidate List substances of very high concern have particular obligations and duties under REACH. Suppliers of articles will need to communicate to their customers the presence of such substances in products and provide available information on the safe use of their articles containing these substances. This includes responding to consumer requests for such information within 45 days.

REACH also requires any importer or producer of an article (i.e. finished product) to submit a notification if a substance is present at above 0.1% weight / weight and 1 tonne per year. However, this obligation can be waived if exposure to the substance can be excluded or the substance is already registered for that specific use, regardless of supply chain.

In response to ECHA having published the first Candidate List, please see our statement titled 'The First List of Candidate Substances'. This is available via the Synthomer website www.synthomer.com

Synthomer will publish further web statements as updates become available from ECHA.

Karen Whiter
Regulatory Affairs Manager and REACH Coordinator

* Annex XIV under REACH Regulation 1907/2006/EC – List of Substances Subject to Authorisation