

Geberit's REACH Compliance

Geberit International AG, Rapperswil-Jona (Switzerland), February 2017

Background

The EU chemicals regulation REACH (EC 1907/2006) and the CLP regulation (EC 1272/2008) on classification, labelling and packaging of chemical substances and mixtures are focused on the protection of the environment and human health as well as the safe handling of chemicals.

REACH stands for the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemicals and is enforced since June 1st 2007. The implementation of REACH is done by the ECHA, the European Chemicals Agency in Helsinki (FI). All substances and mixtures are to be registered, evaluated and authorized by July 1st 2018 – articles as such do not have to be registered.

Substances of very high concern are listed either on the candidate list for authorization or within Annex XIV of this regulation and are required to be authorized or may be subject to restrictions on use. Substances on the candidate list are subject to reporting requirements within the supply chain. Communication within the supply chain is a central element of REACH to ensure the necessary information for the safe handling of chemicals. In this context, the safety data sheet is an important instrument.

Geberit and REACH

Geberit has addressed the REACH issue at an early stage and is only affected by REACH as a downstream user and as an importer. Geberit produces neither chemical substances nor preparations, nor imports relevant quantities to the EU. Therefore, Geberit is not subject to the registration requirement.

As a downstream user, we must rely on and have a clear interest in our suppliers registering their chemicals to ensure supply reliability and the quality of Geberit products and thus also Geberit's compliance with the laws. As an importer of small amounts of preparations into the EU we make sure in close cooperation with our suppliers that all raw materials of the imported preparations are registered accordingly. Additionally we comply with our responsibility to indicate within our sales documents, where applicable, if substances of very high concern according to the candidate list or Annex XIV are contained.

With respect to its supply chain, Geberit places great value on good and environmentally aware suppliers. In the context of the signing of the Geberit supplier code of conduct, our suppliers agree to protect the environment and comply with the laws. Compliance is verified on an ongoing basis on the occasion of visits, talks and audits. These trust-based supplier relations form an important basis for ensuring REACH compliance along the supply chain. In addition, we have questioned our major suppliers with respect to REACH and obtained from them confirmations relating to REACH compliance.

Area of application

This compliance applies to all EEA countries (including Switzerland and Turkey) and relates to all products of Geberit.