



Our position on REACH

- **What is REACH?**

REACH is short for Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals and is an EU regulation on the management of chemicals. REACH will reform the whole EU approach to regulating chemicals and is important to retailers because every raw material in every product sold by the retail sector comprises of chemicals. REACH will require all manufacturers; importers and downstream users to ensure that chemicals put on the market do not adversely affect human health or the environment.

The regulation is however being phased in over 11 years and obligations are staggered over this time but considerable preparation for compliance will need to be carried out to ensure that REACH is implemented smoothly.

- **What does REACH mean for Boots UK?**

REACH will have an impact throughout the supply chain of products and preparations. The proposal sets out a number of obligations for producers and importers of substances and articles. The provision is set out as a safety clause to ensure that there will not be any unknown substances coming into the market via products produced outside the EU.

Retailers are producers when they are selling products under their own label. In that case retailers will need to ensure that their manufacturers of a product have registered the use of the chemicals contained in the product accordingly to the scope of REACH.

Retailers importing products from outside the EU will need to perform a number of administrative checks: -

- identify all chemical substances used in all own brand products,
- work out the total of each chemical used across all products,
- define if they are dangerous and if the total amount used across all product exceeds thresholds stipulated in the regulation. Each tonnage threshold will mean a greater degree of testing,
- find out if the chemical is already been registered by your supplier within the EU for your use.
- if not, either notify or register the chemical substance with the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) providing the relevant safety data information.

- **How have Boots UK been preparing for REACH?**

After working on the development of the EU chemicals regulation since 2001, REACH finally came into force on 1st June 2007. We believe we have a part to play in making REACH work, helping to find ways to ensure that chemicals are used safely, while maintaining the competitiveness and enhancing the innovative capability of the EU chemicals industry. Boots UK continue to support the ideals of REACH to ensure that we have a trusted legislative system for the management of chemicals. We are committed to working with our supply chain to ensure roles and responsibilities are fully understood and committed to working with enforcement bodies to ensure compliance throughout our supply chain.



- **Future developments**

Boots UK will continue to support the implementation of REACH and hope that it offers business and consumers protection against the most hazardous chemicals. Many of the principles of REACH (taking a precautionary approach towards the safety of chemicals and providing information to downstream users) follow many of the principles that Boots UK have been adopting for some time.

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