

### REACH Regulation

**The European Union's REACH Regulation came into force in 2007 and replaced the previous risk assessment system for chemicals in the EU. REACH stands for Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals and aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment from the risks that can be posed by chemicals.**

Under REACH, companies have responsibility for collecting information on the properties and the uses of substances that they manufacture or import into the EU. They must also make an assessment of the hazards and potential risks presented by the substances and "register" these assessments with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). In 2008 the lead industry formed a Lead REACH Consortium to coordinate the registration by companies of assessments for lead metal and 10 other substances covered by the EU voluntary risk assessment for lead. In addition, 15 'complex intermediate' substances resulting from lead production and processing were assessed. The Consortium was set up and managed by the International Lead Association Europe with involvement from the European Lead Oxide Association and European Lead Stabiliser Association. The Consortium is supported by approximately 100 member companies.

The preparation of registration dossiers represented a huge undertaking for the lead industry, requiring a direct investment by industry in the region of €3 million over the period 2008-2010. Around €1 million was invested in research, building further on the already extensive knowledge of the assessment and management of lead risks. ILA Europe ultimately coordinated the successful registration in 2010 of around 450 dossiers across all 26 substances within its remit.

REACH requires industry to maintain up to date assessments of the substances it manufactures and imports into the EU. New information on lead, including that generated from ILA's on-going investment in state-of-the-art scientific research, is therefore being used to periodically refine the registration dossiers.

To achieve the protection of human health and the environment from risks posed by chemicals that is envisaged by REACH, it is crucial that information on appropriate risk management is efficiently and effectively communicated by manufacturers and importers to downstream users. This principle is embedded in the REACH Regulation, which establishes rules and guidance on how this should be achieved. ILA Europe is therefore continuously supporting the lead industry in developing and maintaining relevant communications materials such as Safety Data Sheets and Exposure Scenarios.

Of course regulators, as well as industry, have an important role in managing potential risks from chemicals. As such REACH includes "Evaluation", "Authorisation" and "Restriction" procedures to ensure appropriate control measures are in place and up to date. Such procedures are already being applied to some Lead REACH Consortium substances and ILA Europe actively engages in their development and implementation.

Further information on the activities of the Lead REACH Consortium is available at [www.reach-lead.eu](http://www.reach-lead.eu).

