

REACH SERVICES

Our Expertise

wca environment limited is a leading consultancy organisation providing independent and objective advice on the sources, fate and effects of chemicals in both the natural and industrial environments.

Our staff of environmental scientists and chemists are experts in REACH compliance activities and we provide quality assured advice and consultancy to industrial consortia and individual companies.

Our modern office suite in Faringdon, Oxfordshire, UK is the headquarters of our company. We also have offices in Northern and Southern England, Scotland and Italy.

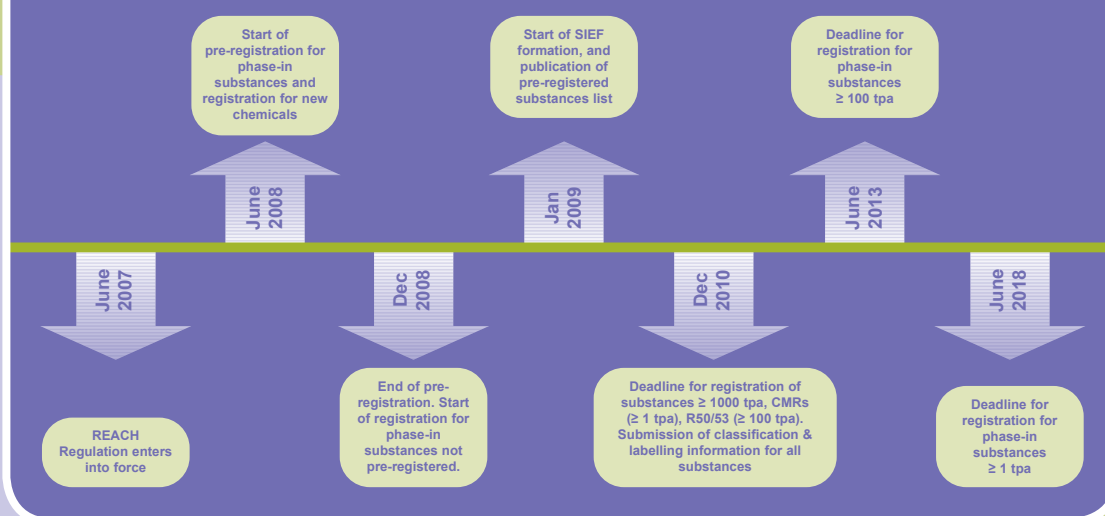
Our Quality System is certified to ISO 9001 and our Environmental Management System is certified to ISO 14001.

We are a REACHReady Service Provider.

REACH services that we offer include the following:

- Substance identity and physical and chemical properties
- Data review
- Development of Integrated Testing Strategies
- Human health hazard assessment of physicochemical properties
- Human health hazard assessment and toxicology study management
- Environmental hazard assessment and ecotoxicology study management
- PBT and vPvB assessment
- Exposure assessment
- Risk characterization
- CSA/CSR preparation, including Exposure Scenarios
- Classification and labelling (including CLP)

REACH Timeline



wca environment

today's consultants for tomorrow's challenges

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The REACH process

REACH is the most complex chemical control legislation ever enacted. It requires a variety of different scientific and administrative skill sets in order to achieve a timely and cost effective substance registration process. This is particularly critical for small and medium size companies who are unlikely to have the necessary expertise in-house.

As a result of the 'One Substance, One Registration' concept, an added complication is the need for manufacturers and importers to work together in SIEFs (Substance Information Exchange Forums) or Consortia to develop appropriate registration strategies. Although the High Production Volume (HPV) programmes provided prior experience of working together for a number of substance suppliers, REACH extends this concept to cover all substances manufactured or imported at 1 tonne per annum and above.

Working together in SIEFs and Consortia can be extremely demanding on both resource and expertise.

wca environment is well equipped to assist companies in communicating with SIEFs, and also to work with SIEFs and Consortia to help them meet their REACH compliance obligations. Our technical staff have gained extensive experience with all aspects of the REACH Regulations over several years, with activities ranging from initial data review and assessment, through to IUCLID 5 file preparation and dossier submission (see the wca REACH programme).

wca has particular expertise in the fields of exposure assessment and risk characterisation. wca scientists have had extensive involvement in the derivation of environmental quality standards and limit values for substances in water, soils, sediments and waste, and in producing hazard and exposure assessments for numerous chemicals. This expertise has extended into the complex activities involved in preparing the Exposure Scenarios and Chemical Safety Assessments required for registration under REACH.

Overall, wca environment has the capability and capacity to work with client companies, Consortia or SIEFs to assist them with all aspects of REACH compliance.



Our Experience

The first major REACH Registration deadline was 30th November 2010. wca environment worked for a number of clients across a variety of industries to meet this deadline, and has been involved in nearly 400 successful Registrations. We have a great deal of experience of successfully delivering Registrations as part of technical consortia.

Building upon our successful Registrations for the 2010 deadline, and considerable expertise in working with previous regulatory regimes, wca environment is well placed to assist companies in all aspects of REACH Registration for the 2013 and 2018 deadlines. We continue to work with existing clients on the updating of CSRs and responding to questions from ECHA, and we are also able to offer this service to new clients who have already submitted registration dossiers.

wca environment are also able to provide assistance for the later stages of REACH. Society increasingly needs to balance the potential risks posed by exposure to chemicals against the benefits provided by the use of these chemicals. This can be highly contentious because different sections of society hold different and often irreconcilable views on the acceptability of risks and the value of apparent benefits. Socio-economic analysis (SEA) seeks to quantify as far as possible the social, economic and human health costs and benefits of different potential scenarios so that rational, transparent and consistent decisions can be made. SEA is an important process under REACH if Authorisation or Restriction is being considered for a substance.

We have helped government and commercial clients to develop methods for performing SEAs, with an emphasis on the use of quantitative and semi-quantitative evidence. We have also developed and used multi-criteria decision analysis techniques to allow the consistent combined use of both quantitative and qualitative evidence in SEA.

wca environment's REACH Compliance Programme

The key to successful Registration of substances under REACH lies in a logical step-wise progression through the entire process. Most aspects of REACH are interlinked and the omission of a key aspect in the early stages could jeopardise a successful Registration. This is particularly critical for a Lead Registrant, where the acceptance of the final electronic dossier by ECHA is a pre-requisite to permit the remaining SIEF members to submit their own Registrations.

In order to assist organisations in their planning, wca environment has developed a 5-phase programme that covers the entire Registration process. While we are currently undertaking the full programme for a number of clients for 2013 and 2018 registrations, there is also the option of choosing one or more of the modules individually, where a particular resource or expertise is needed.

The full programme comprises the following modules:

Phase I: Literature Review & Data Gap Analysis

Publicly available and client-owned data are reviewed and scored for quality (Klimisch scores). The output from this phase is a summary by endpoint of valid data. Where necessary, substance groups or categories can also be proposed.

Phase II: Test Programme Development

The potential for test derogation and read-across between grouped substances to fill data gaps is considered and reported in detail.

Phase III: Test Programme Design

A test programme is designed, based on derogations from Phase II, comprising the minimum number of tests to establish valid endpoint data. For substance categories we design a programme to maximise the read-across potential. We have the expertise to initiate and monitor the physico-chemical, toxicological, ecotoxicological and environmental studies in appropriate GLP-accredited Contract Research Organisations on behalf of the client.

Phase IV: Compilation of IUCLID File & Registration Dossiers

All submissions to ECHA must be electronic, using the latest IUCLID file format. We populate the relevant sections of the file with data either provided to us or generated during the course of Phase III. This also includes, where necessary, any proposals for further testing. For Consortia in particular, we are able to host the IUCLID files on our secure server for ease of access by member companies.

Phase V: Chemical Safety Assessment & Reports

A CSA/CSR must be submitted with the Registration dossier for substances manufactured/imported above 10 tonnes per annum. The CSA/CSR complies with the format and content detailed in Annex 1 of the REACH Regulations. It includes the relevant Exposure Scenarios developed for the production and/or use of the substance together with the substance CLP classification.