

# EU Requires Registration for Chemical Imports

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New chemical legislation recently passed by the EU will have significant ramifications for thousands of U.S. companies exporting chemicals and products containing chemicals to the EU, starting with a key December 1, 2008 compliance deadline.

Known as "REACH" - the Registration, Evaluation, and Authorization of Chemicals - the legislation imposes substantial requirements on companies to register and provide health risk information on chemicals manufactured in or imported into the EU in excess of one metric ton per year. The legislation applies, with limited exceptions, to every chemical substance (new and existing) and products containing those substances.

Failure to follow the mandates of REACH, including the failure to pre-register certain substances by December 1, 2008, will result in potentially significant disruptions to the marketing of chemicals and products in the EU market.