

Access to documents at ECHA – 2017 Key figures



The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is committed to meeting its obligations under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 on public access to documents (the “ATD Regulation”). This factsheet looks at the main data related to the processing of access to documents in the Agency during 2017.

ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

Granting access to documents helps to implement ECHA's transparent decision-making processes.

While we are keen to maintain this transparency, we also have to ensure that personal data and commercial interests of data owners (usually industry) stay protected. Before any disclosure, we must endeavour to strike a balance between the interests of the parties concerned in light of the principle of transparency.

In 2017, we replied to all applications within the set time-limits. This was possible due to our cooperative approach (dialogue) with applicants who accepted our proposals to extend deadlines in the most complex cases.

To help interested parties to submit requests, there is a web form on ECHA's website:

» <http://echa.europa.eu/access-to-documents-web-form>

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN 2017

Throughout the year, we received 85 initial applications, amounting to 811 documents processed.

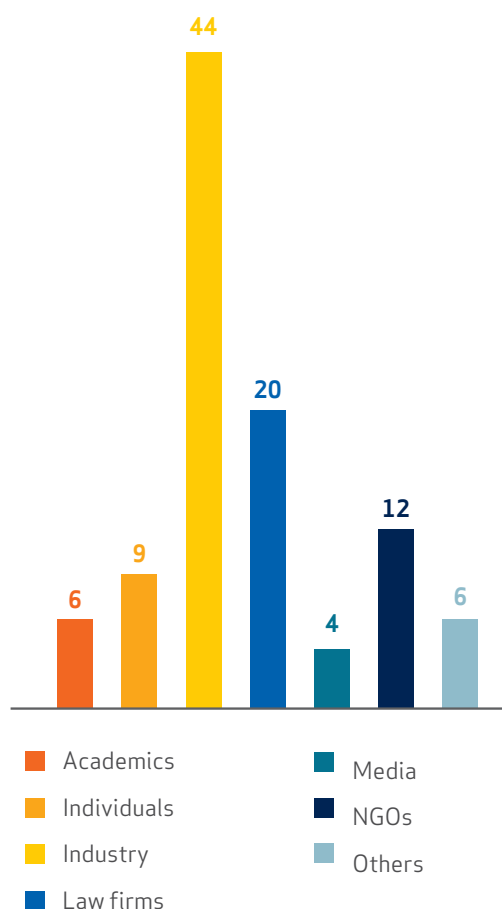
No. of received applications and requested documents in 2017	
Number of applications	85
Number of requested documents	811 *

*number after clarifications

The majority of requests related to Risk Management processes ECHA manages under REACH and CLP. We also kept receiving many requests relating to the Biocidal Products Regulation.

As in previous years, the profile of applicants demonstrates that the access to documents process attracts mainly stakeholders with a professional interest in the work of ECHA. In 2017, 64% of all applications originated from industry and law firms.

Profile of the applicants in 2017 (by percentage)

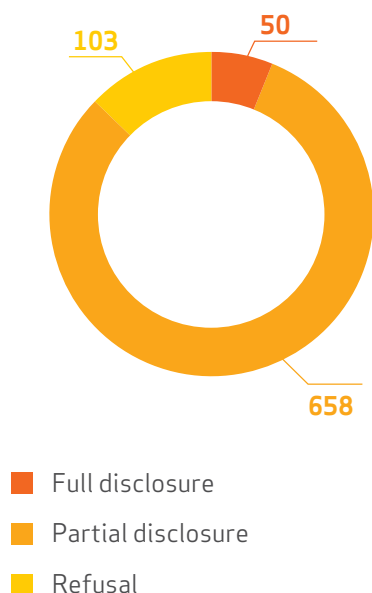


DECISION MAKING

In 2017, we answered by way of decisions to 54 initial applications, which amounted to 708 documents including approximately 7455 pages fully or partially disclosed.

The most applied reasons, triggering documents to be partially redacted have been the protection of privacy and integrity of the individual as well as the protection of commercial interests. In the majority of these cases, we blanked out only personal data from documents. Otherwise, the whole content of documents was fully disclosed.

Outcome of the applications in number of documents in 2017

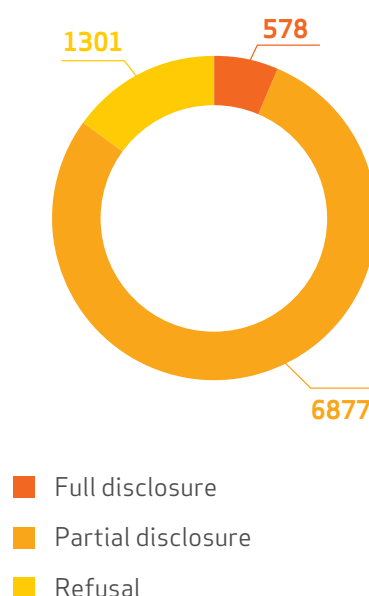


Access to documents was mainly refused based on the protection of commercial interests and ongoing decision making.

ECHA received only three confirmatory applications (i.e. requests for ECHA to review its earlier decision). The Agency did not receive any complaint lodged with the European Ombudsman.

All this supports that ECHA continues to ensure the transparency in its decision-making processes.

Outcome of the applications in number of pages in 2017



FURTHER IMPORTANT LINKS:

Access to documents Regulation:

» <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:145:0043:0048:EN:PDF>

Decision implementing access to documents Regulation in ECHA:

» http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13604/mb_12_2008_final_implementing_rules_access_to_documents_en.pdf

ECHA's webpage on transparency:

» <http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/about-us/the-way-we-work/procedures-and-policies/transparency>

Information on chemicals:

» <http://echa.europa.eu/information-on-chemicals>

In addition, national and ECHA Helpdesk can answer your specific question about REACH, CLP, Biocides and PIC Regulations:

» <http://echa.europa.eu/support/helpdesks>