

ECHA-19-B-04-EN

Access to documents at ECHA – 2018 Key figures



ECHA is committed to being open and transparent about its activities, processes and decision-making. These aims are supported by the application of the Access to Documents (ATD) Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001). Here we present the key figures related to the requests for access to documents processed by the Agency in 2018.

ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

ECHA seeks to guarantee the widest possible access to its documents. In handling requests for access, the Agency observes good administrative practice and makes sure that the personal data and commercial interests of data owners are protected. Taking into account the principle of transparency, ECHA duly balances the interests of the parties concerned.

In 2018, ECHA replied to all requests within the time limits set out in the ATD Regulation. In complex cases, ECHA conferred with applicants to find a fair solution and to agree on timelines.

REQUESTS RECEIVED IN 2018

In 2018, ECHA received 124 initial requests, requiring ECHA to assess 303 documents for disclosure. In many cases, ECHA was able to refer the applicant to information already publicly available by helping them clarify the scope of their request.

Number of applications received and documents assessed for disclosure in 2018

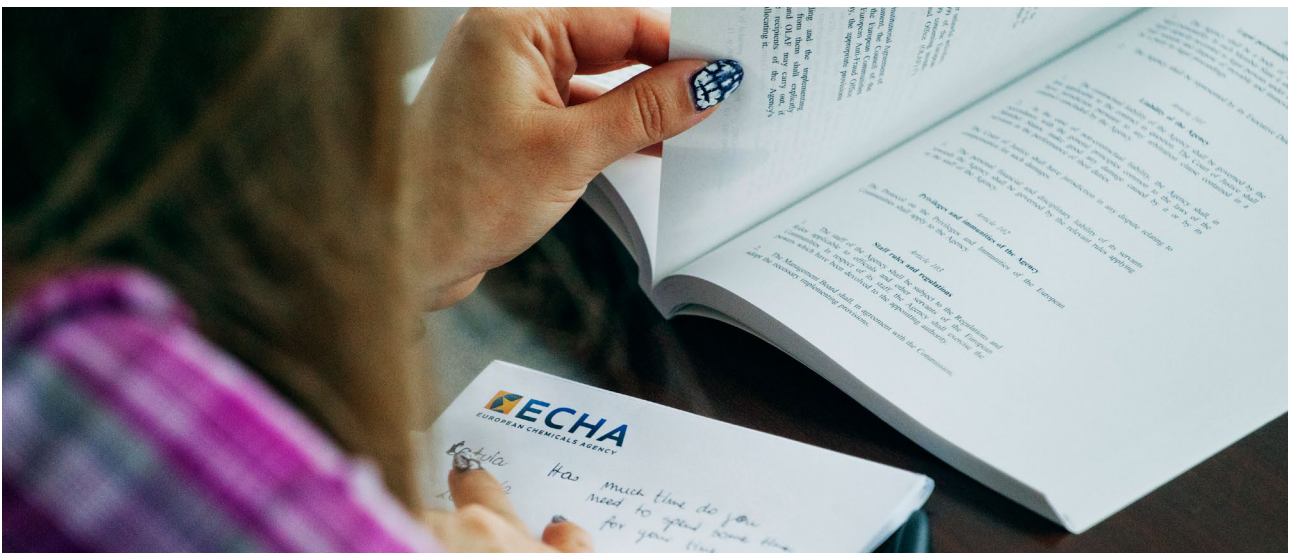
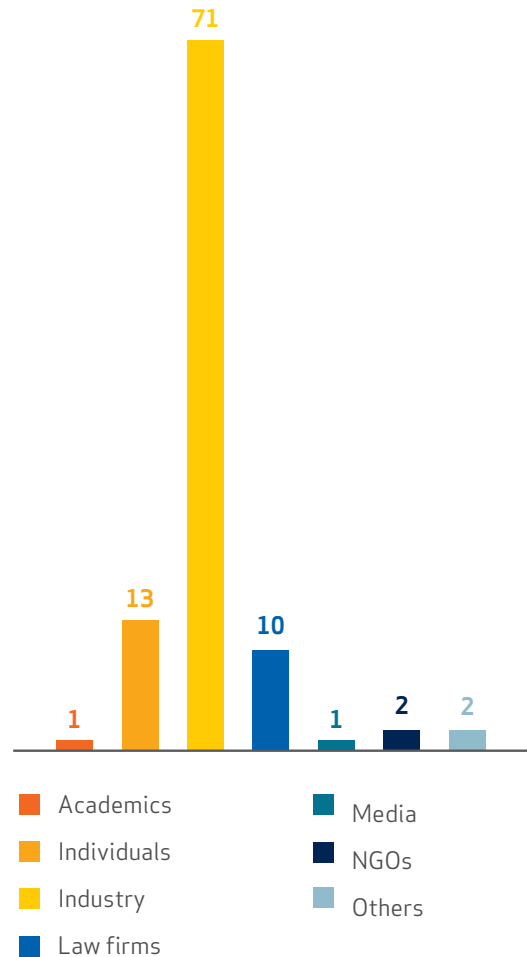
Applications:	124
Documents assessed for disclosure	303*

*after clarification of scope of requests

The majority of requests were related to the Agency's risk management processes under REACH, CLP and the BPR.

As in previous years, the right to request access to documents was exercised mainly by stakeholders with a professional interest in ECHA's work. In 2018, 81 % of all applications came from industry and law firms.

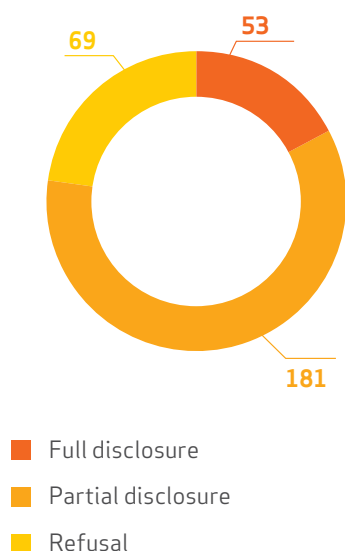
Applicant profile in 2018 (by percentage)



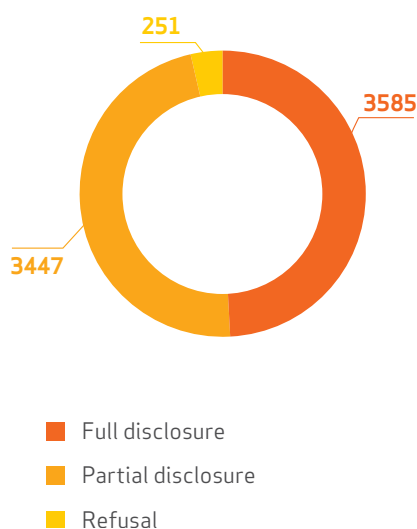
DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

In 2018, ECHA decided on 93 initial applications for access to documents, requiring the assessment of 303 documents including 7 283 document pages.

Application outcome (number of documents)



Application outcome (number of pages)



ECHA based partial redactions of documents mainly on the exceptions specified under Article 4 of the ATD Regulation for the protection of personal data and commercial interests. The Agency refused access to documents mainly to protect ongoing decision-making processes.

ECHA provided replies to two confirmatory applications requesting the Agency to review its earlier decisions. These decisions have not been challenged before the General Court. The Agency did not receive any complaints lodged with the European Ombudsman relating to access to documents.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Access to documents - web form:

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

Access to Documents Regulation:

» <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2001/1049/oj>

ECHA's approach to transparency:

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

ECHA's rules and procedures on access to documents:

» <https://echa.europa.eu/about-us/the-way-we-work/procedures-and-policies/access-to-documents>

Information on chemicals:

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

For answers to specific questions on the REACH, CLP and PIC Regulations and the BPR, contact the ECHA Helpdesk or the national helpdesks:

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