

ECHA-19-B-10-EN

You may have heard the term “downstream user” being used in connection with the REACH and CLP regulation. This document explains who is a downstream user, and outlines the main legal obligations under REACH.

### Who is a downstream user?

“Downstream user” is the term used in the REACH and CLP Regulations to describe users of chemicals. You are a downstream user if you or your company use chemicals in an industrial setting, or if you use chemicals in a professional activity such as cleaning, painting etc. Distributors are not normally downstream users, unless they undertake activities that involve handling the chemicals, such as formulation or transferring chemicals between containers (refilling). The general public, who use chemicals in a personal capacity, are not downstream users and are referred to as consumers.

### What does that mean for a company that uses chemicals?

A company that uses chemicals should know the rights and obligations they have as a downstream user. The main ones are outlined below. Downstream users who formulate mixtures for supply or produce articles which incorporate substances have additional obligations under both REACH and CLP that are not described here.



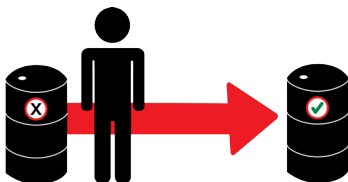
- Check your use is covered in any exposure scenarios you receive
- Implement the measures specified by your supplier to ensure the safe use of the substance or take alternative appropriate action.

*This information may help you in assessing the risk of chemicals under other environmental health and safety legislation.*



- Inform your supplier if you have new information on the hazards of the substance or if the risk management advice provided by your supplier is not appropriate.

*For example, you may be aware of adverse health effects being experienced by your workers, or have evidence that the specified risk management measures are overly precautionary.*



- Take appropriate action if using a substance included in the REACH Authorisation List or if it is restricted under REACH.

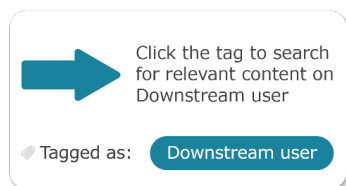
*The preferred measure is to substitute the substance or the process with a safer alternative. Avoid surprises by keeping an eye on which substances are involved in the regulatory processes.*



- Provide information about how you use a substance to your suppliers

*This helps to ensure that you receive relevant information on safe use, because manufacturers and importers can base their chemical safety assessments on this information when they register a substance. This action is voluntary and often done via sector organisations and Use Maps. Confirm with your sector organisation that your use is included.*

## Where can I get more information ...about the role of DOWNSTREAM USERS?



- Web pages containing information specifically aimed at downstream users have been tagged accordingly. Click the tag to retrieve the list of relevant content.
- For presentations and videos about downstream users, see <http://echa.europa.eu/regulations/reach/downstream-users/presentations-for-downstream-users>
- For guidance for downstream users, see: [https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/23036412/du\\_en.pdf/](https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/23036412/du_en.pdf/)
- For information on substances involved in the regulatory processes, see <https://echa.europa.eu/substances-of-potential-concern>
- For information on how downstream users can provide information to registrants, see <http://echa.europa.eu/csr-es-roadmap/use-maps>