

A common screening approach for REACH and CLP processes¹

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In collaboration with the Member States, ECHA has set up a common screening approach for REACH and CLP processes. The approach aims to use all available information on substances to identify candidates for substance evaluation and risk management measures, such as harmonised classification and labelling, authorisation and restriction. The approach is currently being extended to select registration dossiers for compliance check. The purpose of common screening is to ensure that substances that may pose a risk to human health or the environment are swiftly identified and processed with the most effective regulatory instrument available preventing duplication of work.

The screening includes an automated and a manual component. During the automated process, ECHA creates a short list of substances (approximately 200-300 a year) that are proposed for a particular process and a particular concern (e.g. CMR, PBT) using algorithms.

During this process, we initially identify potentially hazardous substances. At a subsequent prioritisation step, use and exposure information is analysed to focus on the substances that matter most.

The algorithms process information in registration dossiers and C&L notifications but also external sources, such as databases with experimental data, international assessments and predictive models.

During the manual process, Member States select substances from the short list and manually evaluate the information to decide whether the automatically identified concern can be confirmed and thus should be formally followed up within a REACH or CLP process, which may require further input from the PBT and ED expert groups.

Possible outcomes of manual screening also include enforcement, actions under other regulations or no action. There are feedback mechanisms for both the automated and manual components to ensure that the IT criteria are periodically reviewed and improved and that manual screening is consistent and fit for purpose. The approach is constantly trying to enhance efficiency by finding synergies among processes and by exploiting substance grouping.

This presentation will give an overview of the screening approach by covering its thematic units, namely human health, environment, endocrine disruptors, use and substance grouping. An overview and achievements of the first two and a half years of operation will be provided.

The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the authors and the content of the paper does not represent the views or position of the European Chemicals Agency

¹ More information on common screening can be found at: <http://echa.europa.eu/addressing-chemicals-of-concern/substances-of-potential-concern/screening>

² Screening involves a large number of experts in Member States and ECHA that cannot all be listed here.