

How SME's experience REACH

Introduction

CEPE conducted a survey of its SME members for their views on REACH's impact on Safety, Health and the Environment (SHE), raw materials and innovation and competitiveness. There were overall 65 responses from CEPE's SME members based in the EU. The aim of the survey was to see the impact of REACH on CEPE members, particularly in the run up to the 2018 deadline.

Summary of Survey Results

The survey revealed that since 2005 companies have invested more in SHE, with SHE personnel costs increasing.

It also confirmed that over half of SMEs only get six months' notice if they are to lose raw materials, and 70% of SMEs have lost up to 10 substances to date. Nearly 60% of SMEs expect to lose up to 10 raw materials in the run up to the 2018 registration, with 60% only actively checking the registration status of the raw materials that are due for registration by 2018 with their supply chain. This also means that two thirds of SMEs must dedicate more manpower to finding suitable replacements for the lost raw materials.

The attention for REACH has negatively affected the innovation and competitiveness of SME's. Exports are expected to worsen, with 30% believing that their ability to export will have deteriorated after 2018 and 41% of companies believe that their innovation capacity will have also worsened.

The full survey results can be found below:

SHE:

- Until 2005, 66% of the SMEs had less than 2% of the workforce employed in SHE
- Today, the same amount of SMEs have between 2 and 5% of the workforce dedicated to SHE
- The other third dedicate over 5% of their workforce to SHE

REACH Registration:

- Over 50% of SMEs receive six months' notice for the withdrawal of substances
- The other half are given 6-12 months' notice
- 70% of SMEs have lost up to 10 substances
- 30% lost more than 10 substances
- Over 30% expect to lose up to 10 raw materials towards the 2018 registration
- Over 60% of SMEs need 2-6 man months to find a suitable replacement in their formulation
- 75% of SMEs have been informed that another 5 substances will disappear after 2018.
- Close to 60% are actively checking the registration status of the raw materials that are due for registration by 2018 with their supply chain

Innovation and Exports:

- Over 30% of SMEs believe that their competitiveness will have worsened after 2018
 - 41% believe that their innovation capacity will have worsened after 2018
 - 30% believe that their ability to export will have deteriorated after 2018
 - 47% believe that their innovation capacity has worsened since REACH
 - 30% of SMEs believe their competitiveness has worsened since REACH
 - 61% have seen no change in their competitiveness
 - 29% believe that their ability to export has worsened
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For further information, please contact the local Paint and Ink association.....