

Eppstein, August 2007

**REACH –
New European Unions Regulation for Chemicals coming into effect**

Dear Sirs,

You may know by media publishing, that the parliament of the European Union (EU) in Strasbourg passed the new regulation for chemicals named REACH on December, 18th 2006.

REACH = **R**egistration, **E**valuation, **A**uthorisation and Restriction of **C**hemicals

The Reach Regulation was published as Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 in the official gazette of the EU on December, 30th 2006. It is coming into effect on June, 1st 2007 and constitutes (in future) the framework for the stipulated activities with regard to the use and handling of chemical substances. As manufacturer of Printing Inks we are concerned indirectly by this new regulation.

The Reach Regulation stipulates the EU manufacturers and importers – with some exceptions only – to register all substances with a volume of more than one tonne per year at the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), which has to be established. We would like to stress, that the duty of registration does not concern the Printing Inks itself, but the used raw materials.

The general obligations for EU manufacturers and importers and the ultimate date for the registration are graded in dependence on the volume and the hazardous potential of the substance (see timetable). Nevertheless all concerned substances have to be preregistered in the time from June, 1st 2008 till November, 31st 2008. The registration process has to be finished latest on June, 1st 2018.

Timetable

Passing of the REACH-Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006:	18.12.2006
Coming into effect:	01.06.2007
Installation of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA):	01.06.2007 – 1.06.2008
Pre-registration of Substances	01.06.2008 – 30.11.2008
Registration of Substances in three steps:	till 30.11.2010
	till 01.06.2013
	till 01.06.2018

Further information concerning the background of the origin, meaning and Implementation of Reach are available on the following websites:

<http://www.reach-info.de> - Page of the „Umweltbundesamt“ (german)
<http://reach.bdi.info/> - Page of the „Bundesverband der Industrie“ (german)
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach.htm> - Page of the EU (english)

We prepared ourselves internally and in dialogue with the associations and our suppliers for the new EU regulation before REACH passed the parliament of the European Union. In co-operation with our raw material suppliers we will investigate in the following weeks and months, that all relevant substances for the production of our Printing Inks will be preregistered as well as registered within the time stipulated.

However in that early phase and in consideration of many uncleared details, we are not in the position to communicate definitely statements regarding the medium- and long-term effects of this new EU Regulation.

We will keep you informed about the next steps and activities.

Best Regards,
A.M.Ramp & Co GmbH