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Annual Summary Report 2022

South Korea

Background

The **Act on Registration and Evaluation of Chemical Substances** (known as **K-REACH**) has been enforced since 1 January 2015, and the most recent amendment came into force on **14 October 2021**.

K-REACH aims to protect public health and the environment through notification or registration, evaluation, authorization, and restriction of chemicals. Under K-REACH, manufacturers or importers of a new chemical substance need to register or notify the substance prior to manufacture or import.

This report summarizes key regulatory activities in South Korea during 2022 and important dates for compliance.

Key news from 2022

Amended K-REACH rules

The Enforcement Rules of K-REACH has been updated with 3 main changes:

(1) requirement on hazard reviews including hazards, use, exposure for those designate substances subject to permission, (2) Omission on the Environmental hazard data for new substance registration if water solubility is less than 1 mg/l, or if the use is intermediate or process regulators, and (3) Simplification on report exemption requirements for new chemical substances to be imported in volumes of less than 0.1 TPA for research and development use.

[Read more.](#)

Registration Procedure updates: Existing substances

South Korea updated the K-REACH registration procedure based on the updated definition of existing substances published on 12 August 2021.

With the updated procedure, it is possible to pre-register existing substances that fall under the expanded definition of the main existing substance and a new CICO can be created after confirming with the authority.

[Read more.](#)

Key dates and deadlines

- Non-Korean manufacturers that placed chemical substances and prepared MSDS before **16 January 2021** in the range **100-1000 TPA** have to appoint an Only Representative and submit their MSDS before **16 January 2023**.
- The upcoming deadline for existing substance registration for **100-1000 TPA** is **31 December 2024**. Since the number of registration dossiers expected to be submitted is high, it is recommended to start preparing the registration soon.

Updates on classification and labelling

Under the regulation on chemical substance classification and labelling, the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) revised 76 toxic substances, added 25 toxic substances, revised 5 restricted substances, and revised 18 substances requiring preparation for accidents. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Updates on the designation of toxic substances

There were updates on designation of toxic substances: 40 chemical substance names were revised and additional 25 chemical substances were added.

The amendment will come into effect in a month from the published date, with some exceptions. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Updates on hazard review

The hazard substance information for a number of substances was updated as the results of the hazard reviews. For existing substances, 11 substances had updates on the hazard information and 141 substances were added to the list.

For new substances, 353 substances had updates on chemical substance names, 94 substances had updates on hazard information, 171 substances were added to the list of hazardous substances, and 2 substances were removed from the list. Read more [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

A guide for serious civic accidents caused by raw materials

The Ministry of Environment published Serious Accidents Punishment Act (SAPA), which is a guide regarding high concern civic accidents caused by raw materials and products.

The guideline aims to help companies to establish a safety and health management system and includes an overview of the SAPA, the definition of raw materials and products, and the duty of chief executives in establishing the management systems as well as securing safety and health of work place. [Read more](#).



IDEON Science Park (Beta 5)
Scheelevägen 17
223 63 Lund, Sweden



+46 46 211 4615



compliance@gpcregulatory.com



www.gpcregulatory.com
(Corporate website)



www.gpcgateway.com
(Regulatory Intelligence Portal)



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