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eBook

The REACH Handbook

Your Guide to SVHC Compliance

Foreword by Verdantix

The Product Compliance Regulatory Landscape Has Never Been More Complex

Today's global manufacturers must navigate a diverse and increasingly complex regulatory landscape. Among this vast array of regulatory guidelines, the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation, and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation is one of the most comprehensive and impactful for manufacturers operating in or serving end customers in the European Union (EU).

The pace of change within REACH can be highly dynamic, resulting in a string of knock-on implications for manufacturers. For instance, over 10,000 PFAS chemicals, which have only been regulated under REACH since 2019, are now under consideration for EU prohibition, potentially taking effect in 2027.

This regulatory trend points to the continued and accelerated expansion of compliance obligations under REACH, creating a growing risk for organizations that don't have the necessary product data management systems and processes in place.

Inadequate Product Compliance Poses Critical Brand Reputation, Market Access & Financial Risks

Due to the rapid evolution of regulations, product data management for compliance purposes is no longer a simple tick-box exercise, but instead a strategic imperative for organizations. Failure to manage compliance obligations, proactively protect against risk, and meet product data expectations can result in:

1. Outright or partial loss of market access
2. Supply chain disruptions arising from upstream suppliers proactively banning substances
3. Obsolescence of parts and materials
4. Consumer backlash due to growing consumer consciousness on product sustainability
5. Heightened insurance premiums due to increasing scrutiny of product composition information
6. Significant fines from enforcement agencies
7. Reduced access to capital, particularly as investors incorporate ESG considerations

Manufacturers Are Adopting a Proactive Approach to Product Compliance

The way firms view and manage product compliance is undergoing a fundamental change, evolving from passive to proactive. Mature organizations recognize that digital product compliance solutions are valuable tools to not only maintain compliance today, but also ensure market access in the future. Current proactive compliance approaches and trends enabled through product compliance software are:

1. Updates and alerts for substances that are on track for restrictions
2. Mapping products and their chemical composition within the supply chain
3. Consolidating REACH data streams for optimized analysis and reporting
4. Updating firms on applicable upcoming regulatory changes
5. Automating aspects of supplier communication and data collection
6. Built-in supplier upskilling and training combined with advanced supplier data validity checks
7. Data collection beyond mandatory information, including ESG metrics

Organizations Are Increasing Spend on Product Data Management Systems

Heightened noncompliance risks and the need for complex data management solutions are increasingly driving organizations to deploy commercial product compliance solutions. Due to the core role of product compliance software in navigating dynamic regulations, providing robust data controls, and proactively managing critical risks, Verdantix forecasts that the market size for product compliance software will continue growing at a robust CAGR of 13.2% from 2022 to reach $1.2 billion in 2028.

How Can Firms Differentiate Themselves by Adopting This Handbook?

This handbook provides manufacturing executives with a comprehensive guide to understanding and managing REACH compliance in the context of further PFAS regulations and ESG pressures. Firms should use this resource to inform their product compliance and risk management strategies to avoid reputational controversy, supply chain disruption, and market exclusion. Executives should evaluate the business case for proactive product compliance solutions to differentiate themselves from competitors who remain reactive to the rapidly evolving REACH framework.



Introduction

The Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation, and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation (EC 1907/2006) has grown exponentially in scope and impact over the last decade.

This eBook is a resource to help compliance personnel navigate the REACH Regulation and ensure continued market competitiveness by modernizing their compliance programs.

In this eBook, you will learn:

- Fundamentals of the REACH Regulation as it pertains to finished objects and products
- Important dates and deadlines for compliance
- How to mitigate risk and avoid negative enforcement action
- Why a proactive compliance program should be your priority

Table of Contents

CHAPTER ONE

REACH Fundamentals

Dive into the fundamentals of the REACH Regulation and its impact on finished products and articles. Get a deeper look at the four main processes of the regulation: registration, evaluation, authorization, and restriction.

Jump to Chapter PAGE 01

CHAPTER TWO

Understanding Articles & SVHC Compliance

Learn how to identify and manage substances of very high concern (SVHCs) in your articles, and understand your responsibilities under the regulation.

Jump to Chapter PAGE 06

CHAPTER THREE

PFAS Requirements Under the REACH Regulation

Prepare your compliance program for the unique risks posed by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in your supply chain under REACH.

Jump to Chapter PAGE 09

CHAPTER FOUR

Proactively Meeting Your REACH Requirements

Gain insights into what makes a stronger REACH compliance program, and why a proactive approach is the sustainable choice.

Jump to Chapter PAGE 15

CHAPTER FIVE

Improving Your REACH Program

Get strategies for improving your current program that will protect your market access, grow supply chain resilience, and reduce operating costs.

Jump to Chapter PAGE 18

Book a demo of Assent's REACH compliance solution to start improving your data quality and risk management.

Book a Demo

CHAPTER 01



REACH Fundamentals

EU REACH

The EU REACH Regulation entered into force on June 1, 2007. The regulation impacts almost every product made in or imported into the European Economic Area (EEA).[1]

Given that REACH applies to individual chemical substances as well as substances contained within objects (termed “articles” under the regulation), the regulation affects the use and sale of a vast array of items, ranging from industrial goods to cleaning products, and more.

The REACH Regulation requires all companies manufacturing or importing chemical substances into the EEA in quantities greater than one metric ton per year to register these chemicals with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). They must be able to prove that the chemicals can be used safely. The agency assesses these individual registrations for compliance and ultimately determines whether the risks posed by the substances can be adequately managed. If a risk is deemed unmanageable, authorities may ban it from being placed on the market, restrict the use of the substance, or make it subject to a prior authorization.

1 The European Economic Area (EEA) includes all European Union member states, in addition to Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway.

The Four Processes of REACH: Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation & Restriction

Registration

If a company manufactures or imports a chemical substance that has not already been registered with ECHA in quantities greater than one metric ton per year, they must conduct a risk assessment and submit a registration dossier. Registration is required for individual substances, substances in mixtures, and substances in articles, if "the substance is intended to be released under normal or reasonably foreseeable conditions of use."[2] Companies manufacturing or importing the same substance must work together to submit a joint registration; ECHA requires only one registration per substance.

Who Is Required to Register?

- EU manufacturers or importers of substances on their own or in mixtures
- EU producers or importers of articles meeting the criteria in the Guidance on Requirements for Substances in Articles
- An EU "only representative" appointed by a manufacturer, formulator, or article producer that is outside the EU to fulfill the registration needs of importers

Evaluation

ECHA and EU member states are responsible for evaluating the information submitted by companies to the registration dossier. Their evaluations focus on three areas:

- Assessing the quality of testing proposals submitted by registrants
- Checking the dossiers submitted by registrants for compliance with the REACH Regulation
- Clarifying whether a substance poses a risk to human or environmental health

During substance evaluations, the member states may request further substance information if concerns are raised about its safety. If a substance is deemed unsafe, risk management measures may be implemented, including restrictions, the identification of substances of very high concern (SVHCs), or other actions outside the scope of the REACH Regulation.

In fulfilling its duties under Article 54 of the REACH Regulation, ECHA must publish a report each February detailing the progress it made on its evaluation obligations throughout the previous year. This report includes recommendations for future registrants to improve their submissions.

2 European Chemicals Agency. (2021, August). *Guidance on registration*. https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/2324906/registration_en.pdf/de54853d-e19e-4528-9b34-8680944372f2?t=1629205524601

Authorisation

The authorization process is designed to ensure that risks posed by SVHCs are properly managed, and that these substances are progressively replaced by safer alternatives. It is governed by a two-step process.

The Candidate List: Substances that have been proposed by European member states and/or ECHA as being a risk to human and/or environmental health will undergo a 45-day consultation. Once identified, they are added to the Candidate List, which entails legal obligations for companies manufacturing, importing, or using these substances (as stand-alone substances, in mixtures, or in articles). Candidate List SVHCs may then be labeled as candidates for inclusion in the Authorisation List (Annex XIV).

The Authorisation List: Substances are added to the Authorisation List from the Candidate List according to the order in which ECHA prioritizes them. Priority is generally given to substances that are categorized as persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) or very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB), or that are in high volume market distribution.

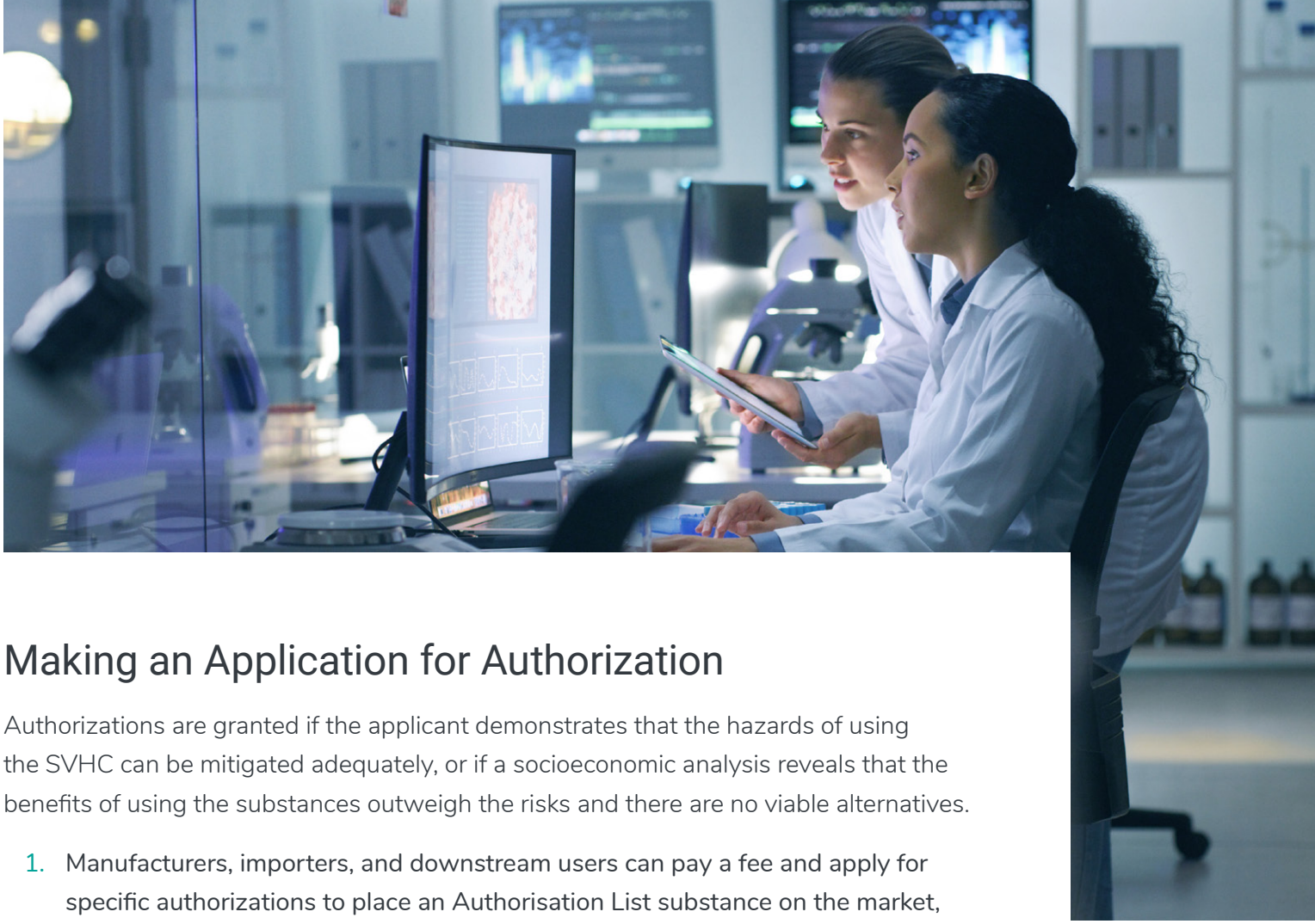
These substances cannot legally be placed on the EU market or used after its sunset date, unless a manufacturer, importer, or downstream user is granted authorization for a specific use, or if the use is exempted from authorization, per Annex IV. An exception to this rule is when a company has applied for an authorization, but has not yet received a decision — the company can continue supplying the product while the decision is pending (even if the sunset date has passed). If the application is refused, the substance must be withdrawn from the market immediately. All applications for authorizations must be made at least 18 months prior to the substance's sunset date.



Master REACH Substance Lists

Knowing how ECHA manages substance restrictions and sunsetting is crucial to proactive compliance management. Download *Understanding the REACH Authorisation & Restricted Substances Lists* for an in-depth guide.

Download Whitepaper



Making an Application for Authorization

Authorizations are granted if the applicant demonstrates that the hazards of using the SVHC can be mitigated adequately, or if a socioeconomic analysis reveals that the benefits of using the substances outweigh the risks and there are no viable alternatives.

1. Manufacturers, importers, and downstream users can pay a fee and apply for specific authorizations to place an Authorisation List substance on the market, or to use it in production.
2. An application must include, at minimum:
    a. A chemical safety report
    b. An evaluation of available alternatives to that substance
    c. A plan detailing how the applicant proposes to replace the substance in time if suitable alternatives are available
3. ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment and Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis will prepare draft opinions on the matter and publish their final decision regarding which authorizations are granted with specific requirements, including labeling needs.
4. Downstream users of an authorized substance have a responsibility to comply. This means decisions about the Authorisation List inherently affect a range of supply chain actors. This makes supply chain engagement imperative for companies in scope of the REACH Regulation.

Restriction

Restrictions limit or ban the manufacture, sale, or use of a substance when the risks it poses to environmental and human health are deemed unacceptable. Restrictions can apply to individual substances or those in mixtures and articles. Member states and ECHA can propose such restrictions, and anyone can comment on proposals in favor of particular restrictions (including interested companies, industry bodies, and civil society). Final decisions on restrictions are made by ECHA, member states, and relevant experts.

After restriction, all manufacturers, importers, distributors, and downstream users, including retailers, must comply. It is up to the authorities in each member state to govern enforcement.

Restrictions range from very specific use cases — such as lead in jewelry — to generic restrictions with derogations, such as the use of carcinogenic, mutagenic, and reprotoxic substances, according to CLP categories 1A/B.[3]

Return to Table of Contents

3 ECHA. (n.d.) *Understanding CLP*. https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/clp/understanding-clp



CHAPTER 02



Understanding Articles & SVHC Compliance

REACH compliance hinges on understanding how the regulation defines an article, and how that definition shapes the way companies structure their compliance programs.



What Constitutes an Article Under the REACH Regulation?

A common misinterpretation of the rule was that an imported complex article composed of multiple parts was considered a single article. As such, it was treated that way for the purposes of determining whether it contained SVHCs above the allowed threshold, which led to situations where large goods were rarely understood as containing SVHC.

However, a 2015 Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruling known as “Once an Article, Always an Article” clarified that the SVHC threshold and notification requirements should apply to individual articles within a complex product. This requires importers to determine whether any article within their product contains an SVHC over the 0.1 percent weight by weight (w/w) threshold. If so, the importer (along with each subsequent purchaser of that product or component) has supply chain communication requirements.

SVHCs & Notification Requirements

The REACH Regulation requires any supplier of articles containing SVHCs to provide the recipient of the article (Article 33[1]) or the consumer (Article 33[2]) with necessary information on the safe use of a substance when:

1. The substance is included in the Candidate List
2. The substance is present in articles produced and/or imported above the 0.1 percent w/w threshold

This information must be communicated once the article is directly or indirectly placed on the market after being added to the Candidate List. If a consumer requests information about substances over threshold, it must be given within 45 days after the request is received, free of charge.





Dive Deeper

Get more detailed information on what is considered an article under the REACH Regulation in our whitepaper, *Applying the Revised REACH Article Rules.*

Download Whitepaper

Guidance on Requirements for Substances in Articles

In June 2017, ECHA released an update to their Guidance on Requirements for Substances in Articles[4] in response to the "Once an Article, Always an Article" ruling. The guidance provides a more specific mandate to gather information from the supply chain and document the process, stating, "producers and importers are strongly recommended to document the results of their compliance assessment."

Documentation should include:

- Information requests made to suppliers of substances, mixtures, or articles
- Information received from suppliers, including certificates and other records
- Decision-making on whether certain objects are articles, substances, or mixtures
- Determination on whether specific requirements apply to the objects, based on information received (among other factors)

This update from ECHA solidifies the importance of efficient supply chain engagement and reinforces the need for a REACH compliance program capable of scaling with expanding REACH requirements. Companies should utilize material declaration standards such as IPC-1752A, IPC-1754, and IEC 62474 in their compliance programs. The next chapter covers how to implement these standards and develop a strong REACH program.

Return to Table of Contents



4 European Chemicals Agency. (2017). *Guidance on Requirements for Substances in Articles*. https://echa.europa.eu/guidance-documents/guidance-on-reach?panel=guidance-on-requirements-for-substances-in-articles#guidance-on-requirements-for-substances-in-articles

CHAPTER 03



PFAS Requirements Under the REACH Regulation

Since REACH came into force, commonly used chemicals in the supply chain have been revealed to be much riskier than previously imagined: per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).[5] Dubbed “forever chemicals,” PFAS are persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic. EU lawmakers have taken steps to eliminate PFAS from the supply chain.

5 Jarnot, Dr. B. (2022, September 8). PFAS: What Are They & How Are They Regulated? Assent. https://www.assent.com/blog/pfas-what-are-they/

Regulatory Roadmap

Some types of PFAS chemicals have been restricted or earmarked for elimination for over a decade under other regulatory contexts, such as the EU Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation. However, this wasn't reflected in REACH until relatively recently.

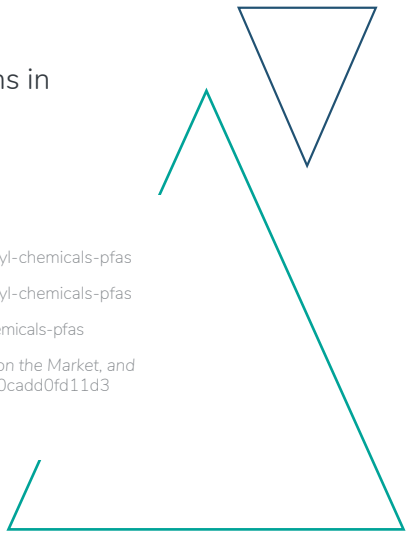
Norway proposed a restriction on perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS), its salts, and related substances. In 2020, ECHA's committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) published opinions supporting the restriction.[6] Germany has also submitted a proposal to restrict undecafluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA), its salts, and related substances. ECHA's scientific committees evaluated the proposal in 2021.[7]

Those two countries, in addition to Denmark, the Netherlands, and Sweden, proposed a restriction covering a wide range of PFAS uses in January 2023.[8] This proposal is one of the most sweeping of all, encompassing over 10,000 substances. It suggests two restriction options:[9]

- A ban with an 18-month generic derogation period
- A ban with use-specific time-limited derogations of five or 13 years

ECHA's scientific committees are currently evaluating the proposal, including insights from a public consultation that ended in September 2023.

In addition, ECHA introduced a proposal to restrict PFAS in firefighting foams in January 2022, which was later backed by the RAC's study in March 2023.[10]



6 European Chemicals Agency. (n.d.) *Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)*. https://echa.europa.eu/hot-topics/perfluoroalkyl-chemicals-pfas

7 European Chemicals Agency. (n.d.) *Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)*. https://echa.europa.eu/hot-topics/perfluoroalkyl-chemicals-pfas

8 European Chemicals Agency. (n.d.) *Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)*. https://echa.europa.eu/hot-topics/perfluoroalkyl-chemicals-pfas

9 ECHA. (n.d.) *Annex XV Restriction Report Consultation: Consultation on a Proposed Restriction on the Manufacture, Placing on the Market, and Use of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)*. https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/aea5537d-b698-3b75-4b67-0cadd0fd11d3

10 European Chemicals Agency. (n.d.) *ECHA's Risk Assessment Committee backs PFAS ban in firefighting foams.* https://echa.europa.eu/-/echa-s-risk-assessment-committee-backs-pfas-ban-in-firefighting-foams

PFAS on SVHC Lists

A number of PFAS chemicals are on the Candidate List of SVHCs. Between January 2019 and January 2023, three groups of PFAS were identified as SVHCs:[11]

- 2,3,3,3-tetrafluoro-2-(heptafluoropropoxy)propionic acid, its salts, and its acyl halides (HFPO-DA), a short-chain PFAS substitute for PFOA in fluoropolymer production
- Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) and its salts, a replacement of PFOS
- Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA) and its salts

Some of the substances pushed to the Candidate List are not even registered in the EU, due to their low usage. Now that these chemicals are on the Candidate List, companies must notify ECHA if one or more are present in their articles above the specified threshold, or if that substance is used in quantities of more than one ton per year. They must notify the agency no more than six months after the substance is included on the Candidate List.

11 European Chemicals Agency. (n.d.) *Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)*. https://echa.europa.eu/hot-topics/perfluoroalkyl-chemicals-pfas



The Impact on Manufacturers

Manufacturers face new reporting requirements due to the presence of PFAS chemicals on the Candidate List of SVHCs. However, other impacts of PFAS under REACH might be less obvious.

There are several major PFAS impacts suppliers will grapple with:

- Part obsolescence
- Pressure from consumers and NGOs
- Investment firms reconsidering their investments
- Liability and insurers
- Expanded reporting requirements



Product Obsolescence & Its Impacts

REACH's PFAS restrictions, along with similar laws in other jurisdictions, are triggering massive supply chain disruptions. For example, in December 2022, manufacturing giant 3M announced it would end its manufacturing and use of PFAS chemicals.[12] 3M sells thousands of products to companies all over the world in many verticals, and its decision will affect companies throughout the supply chain.

Manufacturers can expect more of their suppliers to make such announcements. These announcements spell supply chain disruptions for manufacturers. Here's why:[13]

- As more suppliers decide to stop PFAS production, manufacturers will find themselves competing for PFAS-free parts
- Manufacturers may need to redesign their products to accommodate PFAS-free parts
- Manufacturers may have to change their production processes to eliminate PFAS from the supply chain, which may involve unplanned capital expenses
- PFAS alternative technologies are scarce resources, so increased competition and prices are foreseeable
- Replacing PFAS will need a double investment: continuing to manufacture using PFAS while setting up PFAS-free processes
- Hidden obsolescence, like unavailability of replacement parts for PFAS-based machinery[14]

12 Edgren, C. (2023, February 24). PFAS & Parts Obsolescence: Act Now to Avoid Disruptions. *Assent*. https://www.assent.com/blog/pfas-parts-obsolescence/

13 Edgren, C. (2023, February 24). PFAS & Parts Obsolescence: Act Now to Avoid Disruptions. *Assent*. https://www.assent.com/blog/pfas-parts-obsolescence/

14 Schneider, M. "Lieferketten schnell PFAS-frei bekommen." (2023, April). *Chemie Technik*. https://www.chemietechnik.de/heftarchiv/ausgabendetail/chemie-technik-04-2023.html

Consumer & NGO Pressure

Businesses don't want the headache of managing PFAS risks in the parts they buy from suppliers, and consumers have signaled they don't want products containing PFAS. NGOs are also taking up the charge: In October 2022, a group of over 50 European NGOs published a manifesto demanding the EU ban PFAS in consumer products by 2025.[15]

Investment Firms

PFAS represents a risk to investors, too. They don't want the reputation damage of investing in a company that's fighting PFAS lawsuits or has to spend millions in cleanup efforts.

A group of investors managing $8 trillion USD in assets wrote a letter to the CEOs of the biggest chemical companies in the world, urging them to phase out PFAS.[16]

Liability & Insurers

In the U.S., there have been over 6,000 PFAS-related lawsuits.[17] Historically, chemical companies have been the target of these lawsuits, although now more lawsuits are aimed at companies that use PFAS in their processes, products, or both. Companies making health and sustainability claims are also facing fraud and personal injury lawsuits for their PFAS use.

To avoid liability for PFAS lawsuits and remediation costs, insurance companies are excluding coverage for PFAS lawsuits and cleanup. They're even defending these exclusions in court challenges from their own clients.[18]

A 2023 report from ChemSec calculated the global cost of PFAS remediation, mitigation, and healthcare expenses at approximately €16 trillion per year — compared to the industrial revenue generated by PFAS, estimated to be only around €26 billion.[19]



15 Schaart, E. NGOs Call to Ban PFASs in EU Consumer Items by 2025. *Chemical Watch.* https://chemicalwatch.com/587464/ngos-call-to-ban-pfass-in-eu-consumer-items-by-2025

16 ChemSec. *Investors with $8 trillion Call for Phase-Out of Dangerous "Forever Chemicals."* https://chemsec.org/investors-with-8-trillion-call-for-phase-out-of-dangerous-forever-chemicals/

17 Wallender, A. Companies Face Billions in Damages as PFAS Lawsuits Flood Courts. *Bloomberg Law.* https://news.bloomberglaw.com/pfas-project/companies-face-billions-in-damages-as-pfas-lawsuits-flood-courts

18 Assent. (2023, April 25). *PFAS Lawsuits Signal New Chapter in Insurer Liability.* https://www.assent.com/blog/pfas-lawsuits-signal-new-chapter-in-insurance-liability/

19 ChemSec. (May 25, 2023). *The top 12 PFAS producers in the world and the staggering societal costs of PFAS pollution.* https://chemsec.org/reports/the-top-12-pfas-producers-in-the-world-and-the-staggering-societal-costs-of-pfas-pollution/

Expanded Reporting Requirements

To comply with REACH restrictions and avoid regrettable substitutions while phasing out their PFAS purchases, manufacturers will need to gather data on PFAS chemicals in their supply chain. The U.S. EPA lists over 130,000 PFAS chemicals (existing and theoretical) that present compliance risks. If they don't have visibility into their supply chains, they could miss important data that would render them noncompliant, jeopardizing their market access and bottom line. In addition, it will take time and resources to update supplier outreach to collect and validate this new data.

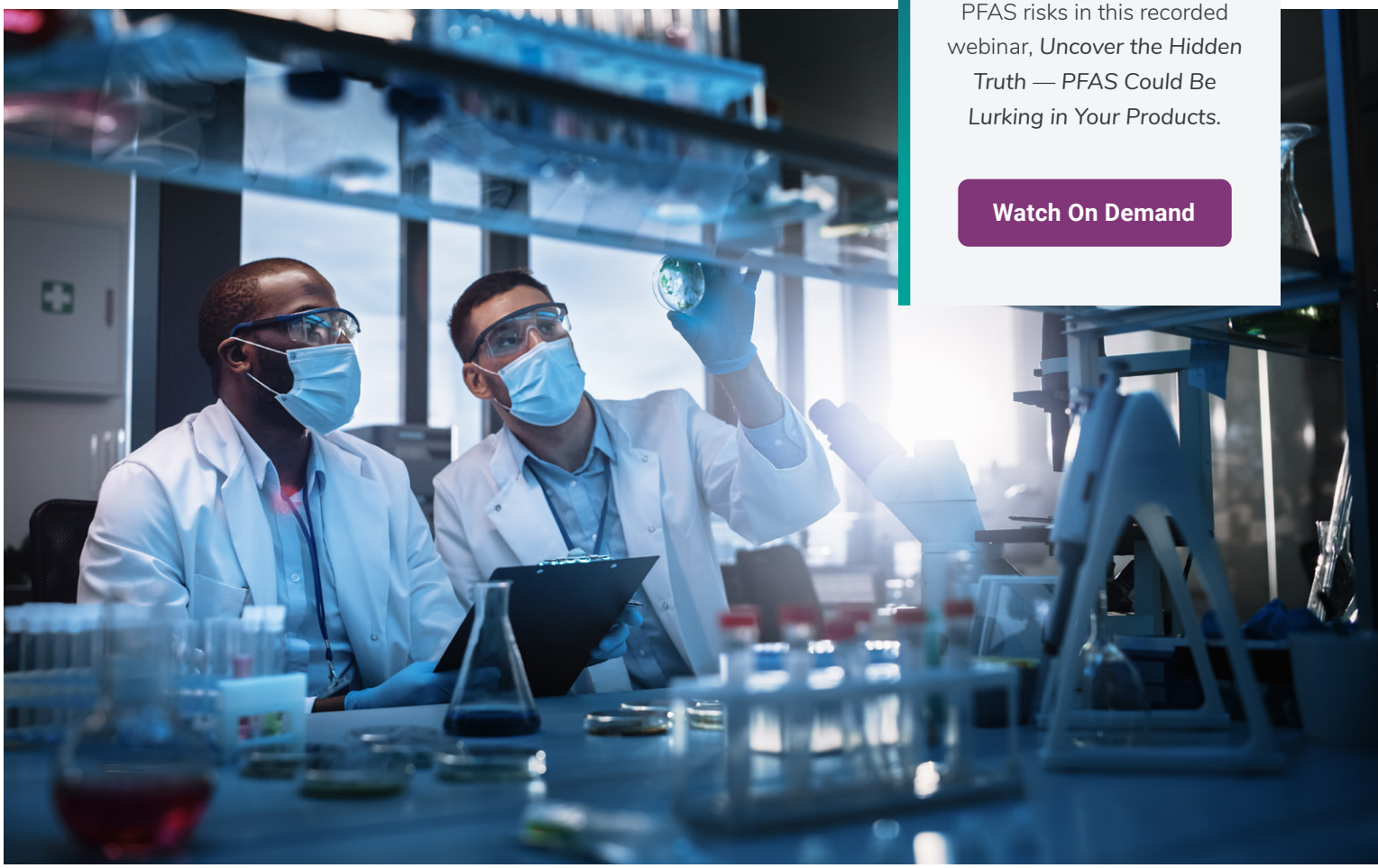
Return to Table of Contents



Are PFAS Hidden in Your Supply Chain?

Get expert insights about the dangers of PFAS and why you might be using them without realizing it. Learn how to engage your supply chain to identify PFAS risks in this recorded webinar, *Uncover the Hidden Truth — PFAS Could Be Lurking in Your Products.*

Watch On Demand



CHAPTER 04



Proactively Meeting Your REACH Requirements

REACH is a continuously evolving regulation. That's why compliance requires a proactive program that is built from the ground up to anticipate and adapt to change.

Building a proactive product compliance program helps you manage supply chain disruptions and regulatory changes by engaging your supply chain, building relationships, and gaining visibility into your current products and future requirements. For REACH compliance, businesses need regulatory foresight, good communication between supply chain actors, and strong data.

Here is what a proactive REACH compliance program looks like:



Collecting Substance Data From Your Supply Chain

- Automated data collection and supplier outreach
- Data validation embedded in data collection method
- Digital data intake through a secure supplier portal
- Scalable solution to reduce resource burden

Data collection is integral to REACH compliance. For example, Article 33 requires companies to communicate sufficient substance information down the supply chain where those substances exist in quantities above the 0.1 percent w/w threshold.

In the past, companies in scope of the REACH Regulation met their compliance obligations using manual email campaigns to suppliers to request substance information. In addition to being time-intensive, this resulted in companies receiving a wave of unstructured information that needed manual organization and validation. For global supply chains in particular, proactive and digitized data collection, multilingual communication, and structured and searchable data inventories are essential to meeting requirements at scale.



Supplier Engagement

- Supplier education programs to ensure accurate declarations
- Dedicated supplier portal for data submission
- Smart outreach that streamlines requests to suppliers

A proactive REACH program recognizes that suppliers often lack the resources, support, and technology needed to respond to the high volume of requests they receive. By simplifying the process for suppliers, businesses can ensure access to high quality and timely product data. Supplier engagement can be improved by providing dedicated communication platforms, outreach in their preferred language, and training materials on the REACH Regulation.

Managing Substances on the Candidate List

- Proactive collection of supply chain data ready for Candidate List updates
- Configurable data collection
- Alerts about substance data in the supply chain
- One-click survey sendouts

With new substances historically being added to the Candidate List every six months, it's essential to be able to take proactive action when a substance you use makes its way onto the list. Using manual data collection, it can take six or more months to find out if an SVHC is in your supply chain, which does not include product testing, altering the product, locating new suppliers, or removing the product and its inventory from your supply chain altogether.

Proactive REACH compliance programs are nimble by nature, having the capacity to automatically update workflows in response to changes in the Candidate List, launch survey campaigns at a moment's notice, and alert you instantly if you have any listed SVHCs in your supply chain. They give you the information you need to make data-informed decisions on your supply chain.

Responding to Expiring Authorizations

- Centralized and auditable supply chain database
- Broad oversight of supply chain activities, fewer touchpoints
- Streamlined mass surveying of the supply chain

If your company has received an authorization for the use of a particular substance, it will have also received an expiry date for that authorization. Companies can either apply for a renewal of their authorization, find an alternate substance, or discontinue the product. A proactive program will make it easier to locate products containing certain substances, along with their relevant expiration date. This can be achieved with a centralized and auditable database.

Return to Table of Contents

CHAPTER 05



Improving Your REACH Program

The REACH Regulation is becoming increasingly complex, requiring more sophisticated due diligence and data collection approaches from companies seeking to stay compliant.

While there were only a handful of SVHCs and associated restrictions for companies to deal with at the onset of the regulation, this number is now in the hundreds. To keep your market access, avoid noncompliance, and protect yourself from disruptions, you need a proactive solution.

Reliable supply chain data is the foundation for REACH compliance. To improve your program and streamline your data collection and validation processes, focus your efforts on seeing deeper into your supply chain data.

Here are some good practices for enhancing your program, along with insights into how Assent supports them and helps you achieve compliance.

REACH Program Good Practice	Assent Solution
Automate data collection from suppliers to reduce manual efforts.	Automatically send out supplier surveys and reminders, and trigger new outreach when substances are added to the Candidate or Authorisation lists.
Centralize all article and substance data.	Provides a centralized, auditable, and searchable database to instantly flag substances, products, and expiration dates. Gain deeper visibility into which articles and chemicals affect your REACH compliance.
Make suppliers partners in compliance.	The Assent solution includes supplier education and technical support to ensure your suppliers understand REACH. Suppliers also get a simple, dedicated portal to securely submit data, all in their dominant language.
Standardize supply chain communication and data collection.	Reduces supplier fatigue with industry-standard surveys that cover all your REACH compliance data needs, rather than sending multiple surveys to each supplier. Cross references product data with other product compliance regulations to streamline data requests for all the markets you serve.
Regularly monitor ECHA for changes to the Candidate and Authorisation lists.	Assent subject matter experts are actively involved in keeping our platform up to date with REACH changes. They are also on hand to answer questions, educate suppliers, and focus your programs.

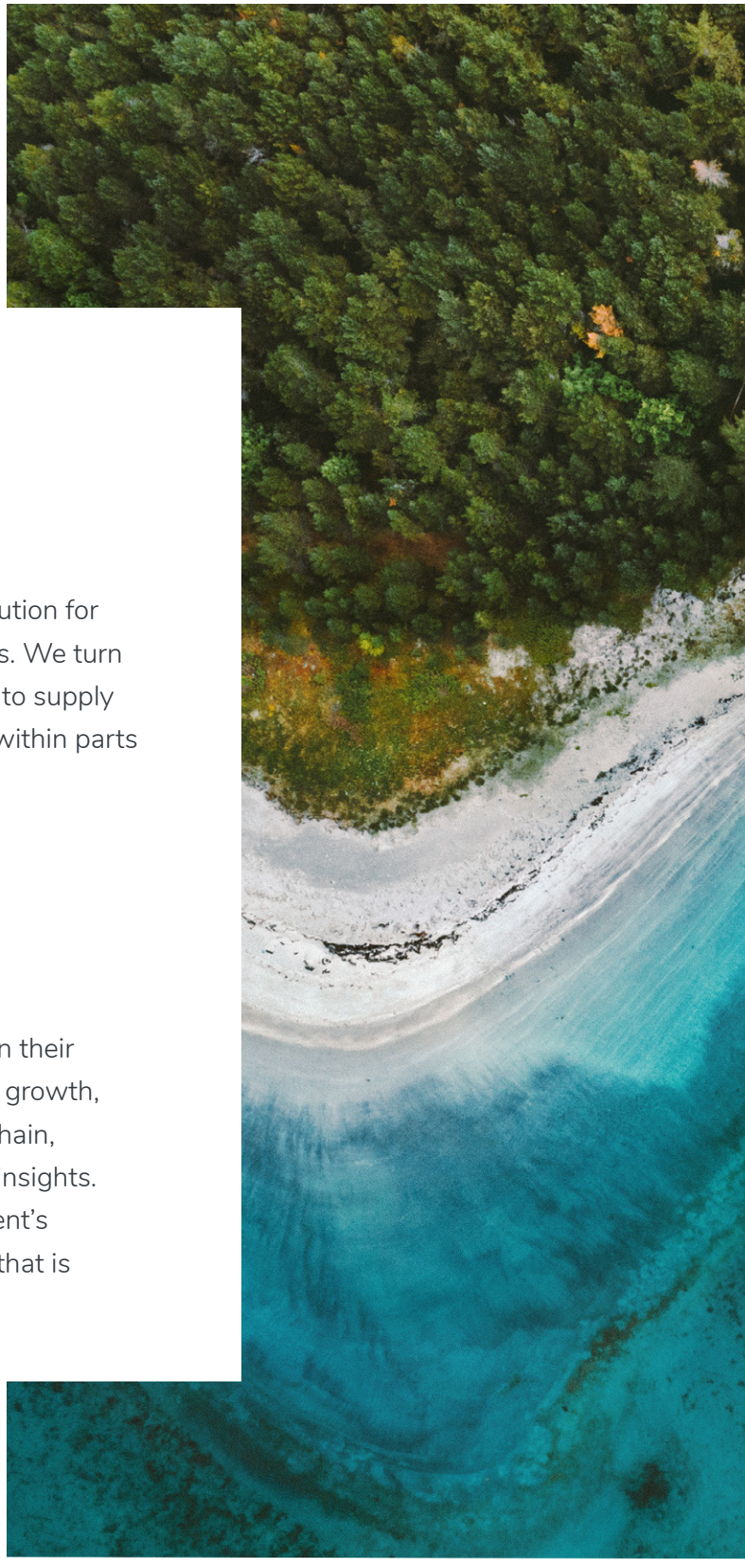
Assent's platform continuously deep-maps and monitors your suppliers, parts, and products to find what is material to your REACH compliance. It is backed by a dedicated supplier engagement team that collects, analyzes, and organizes substance information in your supply chain, and a team of regulatory experts that ensures you remain up to date on your requirements. With Assent, your REACH program will help your company thrive, no matter how REACH changes in the future.

For information on how to get started with a supply chain data management solution that scales alongside your company and with regulatory expansions, contact **info@assentcompliance.com**.

Book a demo of Assent's REACH compliance solution to start improving your data quality and risk management.

Book a Demo

Return to Table of Contents



Who Is Assent?

Assent is the supply chain sustainability management solution for the world's most forward-thinking complex manufacturers. We turn sustainability goals into tangible action by delving deep into supply chains, identifying suppliers, parts, and even substances within parts to map the entire complex manufacturing genome.

What We Do

We help companies spot sustainability risks hiding deep in their supply chains and identify new areas of focus to enhance growth, efficiency, and value. By digging deep within the supply chain, we pull and validate more actionable data to provide real insights. Guided by regulatory experts with a diverse skill set, Assent's solution delivers a cross-enterprise view of sustainability that is necessary for true leadership in the field.



[Assent is] a low touchpoint program with very high results and program growth, year in and year out.

— Ryan Zelhofer, Former Product Compliance Manager, Plexus

Over **200,000** parts managed

80% reduction in staff management hours

The Assent Solution

The journey toward sustainability demands a new way of thinking about supply chains. Assent turns your supply chain data into a critical tool to make safe, sustainable, and ethical products by providing:

- Clean data collected from the source using automated engagement techniques that dive deeper into supply chains
- Crucial, at-a-glance supply chain sustainability data through streamlined dashboards
- An adaptable program that evolves alongside regulations and industry trends

People are the beating heart of any sustainability program. Assent combines its leading technology with expert guidance, ensuring each program is tailored to your specific needs. Dedicated customer success managers make sure you have a familiar face to speak to about changing program goals or enhancements.

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