

New milestone ahead involving bike and P&A makers, importers and distributors

Gearing Up for REACH 2013

BRUSSELS, Belgium - REACH – the European Union regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals aimed at promoting the safer use of chemicals has now been in place for five years and several important milestones in its implementation have already passed. However, a new deadline is ahead which involves downstream users (bike and P&A makers, importers and distributors).

By Malcolm Carroll, Director of REACH Delivery

Almost a year has flown by since we saw the first phase of registration completed successfully, with manufacturers, importers and distributors of over 1,000 tonnes of chemicals a year registering their chemicals with the European Chemical Agency (ECHA). Since that time, the che-

mical industry has shifted its focus onto the next REACH landmark – REACH 2013 registration.

May 31, 2013 deadline

At the European Commission's REACH Registration conference in September a new

campaign - 'REACH 2013 – ACT Now!' was launched by the ECHA. The goal of the campaign is to ensure that chemical manufacturers, importers and downstream users (which are bike and P&A makers, importers and distributors) to start preparing for the 31 May 2013 REACH registra-



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REACH and the Bike Industry

Why would the bicycle sector have to bother about EU regulation regarding chemicals? All products marketed by the bike and P&A makers, importers and distributors in Europe do contain one or more chemicals or mixtures of chemicals (like the paint or carbonfibres; further referred to as 'preparations'). The REACH Regulation gives greater responsibility to industries to manage the risks from chemicals and to provide safety information on the substances. Manufacturers and chemical importers will be required to gather information on the properties of their chemical substances, which will allow their safe handling, and to register the information in a central database run by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki. The Agency will act as the central point in the REACH system. It will manage the databases necessary to operate the system, co-ordinate

the in-depth evaluation of suspicious chemicals, and run a public database in which consumers and professionals can find hazard information.

REACH for distributors and retailers

A distributor under REACH is an actor who only stores and sells substances and preparations exclusively inside the EU, without any kind of modifications or repackaging. A retailer under REACH is an actor who sells substances and preparations to private consumers and/or professional users in retail stores. Retailers are a sub-group of distributors. Storage providers, who only store substances or preparations, are also a sub-group of distributors. As long as they don't perform any operations or activities with them, they only have to forward information in the supply chain. The distributors have the obligation to

pass on information on the goods they distribute from one actor in the supply chain to another. This includes safety data sheets for substances and preparations. Furthermore, it requires certain information to be provided for substances, preparations or articles when a safety data sheet is not required. Distributors are not downstream users of substances or preparations according to REACH, but have a key position regarding information flow within the supply chain. The distributors can prepare themselves on REACH by, for example, initiating communication between a manufacture or an importer of substances and their customers, who will often be downstream users. The downstream users could be those handling semi-final products as well as the end users of substances and preparations. For more:

www.bike-eu.com/laws-regulations/

tion deadline now. By this date, all phase-in substances manufactured or imported in the EU above 100 tonnes a year will need to be registered under REACH. One of the notable factors about the 2013 registration is that a far greater number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) will be affected. As the first registration phase focused on substances produced or imported in high volumes, smaller companies have not been as involved in the REACH process as some of the larger companies. However, this is about to change. SMEs will have to become more involved in REACH and most will have little experience of the REACH process. Most likely, they will also have less budget and fewer resources to handle the complexities and administrative challenges involved.

Safety Data Sheets

The challenges ahead for SMEs are wide-

ly acknowledged within the industry. Cefig's Executive Director, Hubert Mandery has stated that whilst the industry wants to make REACH work, the legislation is complex and also acknowledged that companies are doing their utmost to comply and prepare to co-operate. As we all know the main purpose of REACH is to promote the safer use of chemicals and protect people who handle chemicals, as well as the environment. The registration process is of course a big step towards achieving this. But one of the other significant tools used by the industry to ensure safety levels, are the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) that are distributed to customers at the time of shipment of chemicals. SDSs contain important information about chemical properties, as well as how they should be stored and handled.

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Velo 2013: Dynamic Flexibility

With their newest T-technology, Velo accomplished a breakthrough in ultra-light saddle base construction with carbon fiber injection and rail construction. Ingeniously reinforced saddle bases, now available in two new lightweight competition models, boast lower conventional component dependency and a significant overall reduction in saddle weight.

Velo's T-technique, achieved through lightest weight carbon fiber injection in "T" format, and is being introduced at Taipei Cycle in newest saddle models 1505 and 1489. Each model is now available with the choice of carbon, titanium or Cr-Mo rails. The strategic introduction of carbon fibers has redistributed the

saddles' carry load and allowed removal of material in quantity. The overall weight reduction here has actually increased support, flexibility and riding comfort. Velo's product development in their competition category, available to OEMs for 2013, include advancement in their newly patented Vex Foam process, providing the rider high shock absorption, low compression set and zero migration. It is now available, for example, in Velo's new saddle model VL-1491. Another enhancement comes with the improved constant temperature saddle skins; these developed to resist extreme temperature swings and the resulting brittleness, and guaranteeing cyclists a pleasant run regardless of prevailing conditions. In addition, the Velo V-Mount quick

attachment devices have been improved and modified again this year for even greater convenience and utility, and the newest generation of ergonomic grips, VLG 1189D3, gives riders enduring, fatigue-free comfort through anatomical shape and gel inserts. It is easily and safely mounted through Velo's patented G2 clamp-lock system. With MetaStar Velo brings in a new dimension in hi-tech handlebar tape with all the comfort of natural latex. It is soft, flexible, easy-to-mold and UV and stress-crack resistant, even at low temperatures, with extremely resilient ergonomic grip function. "Riding on air" is not just another slogan. Buoyancy is the term that best describes Velo's latest comfort innovation in the Sports class. Elasto Air is the name of new saddle VL-3273. An inflatable, stable-walled ball, or "balloon", at the rear of the saddle's base sees to perfect riding position and support, adjusting to personal riding style and body weight. Via a simple-to-operate valve at the back of the saddle, the rider adjusts the seat tension with an ordinary bicycle pump. It optimizes both riding efficiency and enhancing healthy riding posture. In the Comfort saddle line, Velo has improved their patented Double Density base construction, now offering better material compositions in both densities. The

lighter layer consists of soft, resilient inserts maximizing shock absorption, the heavier assures stability and aerody-

namic. Learn more from Velo at the Taipei Cycle Show, booth JO 7171.



Velo's newest generation of ergonomic grips, the VLG 1189D3.



Elasto Air is the name of Velo's new saddle VL-3273.



The VL-1489 featuring the light weight carbon fiber injection in "T" format.

Photos Velo

Gearing Up for REACH 2013

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The level of information required by REACH to appear on the SDS has been extended so that the SDS and associated Exposure Scenarios (ES) can now be quite sizeable documents. And there are expectations for a large increase in the actual number of SDS and ES documents entering the supply chain as a result of both 2010 and 2013 stages of legislation. Under REACH, there are also some big changes required concerning the way in which SDSs need to be sent to customers and then used within companies - such changes will impact any company preparing for registration in 2013. To achieve REACH compliance any company importing and distributing chemicals to and within the EU will need to ensure the direct delivery of SDS and associated documentation to customers. They

will also be responsible for keeping these documents and their customers up to date if there are any changes or clarifications. This is a big change. Traditional methods of sending SDSs by either email or post won't be considered robust enough to stand up to regulatory scrutiny. Email does not guarantee or record proof of delivery and does not monitor the status and confirm successful delivery of the Safety Data Sheets. Post has the same problems as emails and both incur significant time and costs in administration and management. And there are no audit capabilities, sufficient to demonstrate compliance or to provide protection in the event of legal action.

REACH Delivery

One solution being adopted by an increasing number of companies, is to

automate the entire SDS delivery process using REACH Delivery, a new industry-wide SDS delivery service. This secure online service enables the electronic delivery, receipt, control, update, audit and tracking of SDSs in line with REACH. It automates the entire SDS delivery process including the monitoring, tracking and reporting on all documents that are sent to customers and provides a delivery status for auditing purposes. If there are any changes or clarifications to the SDS, then the new version is sent to customers and it replaces the previous version automatically. Organisations who use the system won't have to then worry about out of date versions being in circulation and managers can rest assured that all employees are using the most up to date SDSs at all times. The system also stores all documents in

an electronic database, allowing users a single consistent point of access for the latest version of a SDS. It is also cost effective. Companies can use REACH Delivery free of charge by registering for a Free (low use) account and upgrade to the paid service at any point when their volumes increase. The service operates on a 'many-to many' basis, allowing companies, no matter where they are located, to be able to manage and automate the sending and receiving of SDS, and other documents and messages, within a fully secure and audited environment. It is international and multi-lingual as well as being easy to use. As REACH affects companies throughout the world and similar legislation is now being considered in other countries, most significantly in the USA, the system has designed to meet the requirements



SDSs contain important information about chemical properties, as well as how they should be stored and handled.

of new international legislation as and when it is required. There is no doubt that REACH compliance is a hugely complex issue for companies - particularly the smaller companies now gearing up for 2013 registration. However, automating the sending of SDSs in line with REACH ahead of time will get one of the big compliance challenges out of the way. Companies who act now and automate their SDSs processes will be alleviating some of the pressures they face so they can focus on gearing up for registration. More at: www.reachdelivery.com



One solution being adopted by an increasing number of companies, is to automate the entire SDS delivery process using REACH Delivery, a new industry-wide SDS delivery service.

Photo: REACH Delivery




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