

REACH – Implications for the Chemical Industry in Wales

Environment Planning &
Countryside Committee.
National Assembly for Wales

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The Chemicals Sector in Wales

An Overview:

- Approx 9,000 skilled people directly employed
- Contributes to UK's highest manufacturing export earner
- Is part of the EU's 3rd largest employer
- Significant R&D spending
- Wide distribution of employers throughout the region
- Comprises some large companies, many SMEs*
- Thousands of downstream users

* SME = Small to Medium Sized Enterprise

REACH – The Way Forward

Benefits :

- One single system (rather than multiple)
- More knowledge = improved environmental health protection
- Covers the whole value chain
- Transparency & improved information flow
- Shifts responsibility from MS* to industry

(Manufacturer/Importer & Downstream Users)

* MS = Member States

REACH – The Way Forward

Opportunities :

- Need a flexible, efficient & proportionate process
- Complexity v/s bureaucracy
- Prioritisation of efforts & resources
- Risk-based Prioritisation & Registration
- Increased cost effectiveness to assist SMEs with REACH requirements & avoid disruption of the value chain
- Balanced approach re. transparency of information v/s confidentiality needs of companies