

ECHA-12-A-04-EN

Work Programme for 2013

Working to become the world's leading regulatory authority on the safety of chemicals.

ECHA's strategic aims

ECHA has set four strategic aims that were documented in its long term programme for 2013-2015. ECHA is now preparing a new longer term programme for 2014-2018 that will explain how the strategic aims can be converted in a full blown strategy that will ensure the achievement of the ambitious objectives set out by the REACH and CLP Regulations.

ECHA'S STRATEGIC AIMS



- Maximise the availability of high quality data to enable the safe manufacture and use of chemicals.
- Mobilise authorities to use data intelligently to identify and address chemicals of concern.
- Address the scientific challenges by serving as a hub for scientific and regulatory capacity building of Member States, European institutions and other actors.
- Embrace current and new legislative tasks efficiently and effectively, while adapting to upcoming resource constraints.

Busy year ahead

The second REACH registration deadline is on 31 May 2013. Companies wishing to put chemicals on the European market at or above 100 tonnes per year will have to submit registration dossiers to ECHA.

Biocides are used to protect humans, animals, materials or articles against harmful organisms, like pests or bacteria. The European Biocidal Products Regulation will be entering into operation on 1 September 2013 and many companies will need to submit dossiers to ECHA in order to get approval for an active substance. Earlier, authorisation for a biocidal product had to be applied for in one country at a time. With the new regulation, companies can also apply for authorisation in all European Union member states by submitting only one dossier to ECHA.

Throughout the past year the Agency has started to prepare for the Biocidal Products Regulation in virtually all its areas of work. This preparatory work will continue in 2013.

The registration deadline and the Biocidal Products Regulation will increase the dossier submission volumes. This increase will affect other processes, for instance dossier evaluation. The amount of information on substances that is published and the volume of questions that ECHA receives for instance via ECHA Helpdesk will also grow. ECHA is well prepared to provide appropriate assistance and help to companies and authorities.

Baseline assumptions and estimated resources for 2013

HELPING COMPANIES TO COMPLY WITH THE CHEMICALS LEGISLATION	
Registration dossiers	15 200
Testing proposals	410
Requests for access to data older than 12 years	240
PPORD notifications	400
Inquiries	1 200
Appeals	36
Company size checks	300
Alternative name requests	150
Compliance checks	560
ADVANCING THE SAFE USE OF CHEMICALS	
Proposals for harmonised classification and labelling	70
Substance evaluation decisions	30
PROVIDING INFORMATION ON CHEMICALS	
Helpdesk, general and newsroom enquiries	11 800
Confidentiality requests	770
ADDRESSING CHEMICALS OF CONCERN	
Restriction proposals	8
Proposals for identification as SVHC	30
Authorisation applications	20
OTHER	
Access to documents decisions	400
Number of statutory staff	608
Budget of the Agency	107 mill.



Photo: ECHA

Scientific challenges

By the end of 2013, ECHA has committed to finalise compliance checking on 5% of the dossiers that arrived before the first registration deadline.

Substance evaluation will need to go full steam ahead and the first authorisation application dossiers will be arriving in 2013. In order to manage that efficiently, new processes will be tested for the first time.

In many ways 2013 will be a peak year for ECHA. The Agency is planning to manage the challenges that the new year will bring by focusing on higher efficiency and prioritisation on core tasks.