

# Call to action

by all workers' reps  
in companies manufacturing, using  
or placing chemicals on the market

## Is your employer ready to take up his duties under the new legislation?

The EU has recently introduced two major changes to its chemicals legislation – the REACH regulation in 2007 and the CLP regulation last year:

- **REACH** requires the registration of all chemical substances that are manufactured or imported into the EU in quantities of 1 tonne or more per year. If data on hazardous properties is lacking, such data should be generated and safety data sheets updated.
- **CLP** introduces new, globally harmonised rules on how to classify, label and package chemical substances and mixtures which are hazardous to health and to the environment.



## What is important in 2010?

If your company is **manufacturing, importing or placing chemicals on the market**, it may need to:

- **Register** high production volume and the most hazardous chemicals with the European Chemicals Agency
- **Reclassify**, label and package chemical substances that it places on the market according to the new rules
- **Notify** the European Chemicals Agency of the classification and labelling of all hazardous chemicals placed on the market regardless of their production volumes
- **Provide** an updated safety data sheet to customers

**Make sure your employer  
is aware  
of the deadlines!**

<b>30 November 2010</b>	<b>REACH Registration</b>
<b>1 December 2010</b>	<b>CLP Reclassification</b>
<b>3 January 2011</b>	<b>CLP Notification</b>

If you are **using chemicals**, check with your employer whether:

- Their classification should be changed under the new rules
- They are labelled in line with them
- Your uses are covered by the updated safety data sheets
- The required risk management measures are implemented

### Why should you be concerned?

If your company fails to comply with the REACH and CLP requirements, the national enforcement authorities may take action and some of your production lines could be stopped by them.

### How will the new rules benefit you?

By complementing existing health and safety rules, they will improve worker protection by enhancing the safe use of chemicals, reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals and avoiding occupational diseases caused by them.

### Further information:

- **ETUC** offers dedicated REACH web pages: <http://www.etuc.org/r/830>
- **EMCEF** report on “Going beyond REACH – Health and Safety at Work” can be found at: [www.emcef.org](http://www.emcef.org) > EU projects > H&S workplace
- **ECHA** provides guidance, assistance and online tools to comply with the new rules under REACH and CLP: <http://echa.europa.eu>
- Your country has a **national helpdesk** which provides assistance and information on compliance with REACH and CLP: <http://echa.europa.eu/help/nationalhelp>
- **EU-OSHA** provides information on how to manage the risks of using dangerous substances at work: <http://osha.europa.eu/en/topics/ds>

# The clock is ticking! Act now

