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Regulatory Newsletter

Autumn 2026

This newsletter provides updates on important regulatory issues and developments of interest to Sun Chemical customers.



Executive Summary – Autumn 2026 Regulatory Landscape

The regulatory landscape for chemicals, food contact materials (FCMs) and related products continues to evolve, with focus on hazard management, supply chain transparency and regulatory simplification. Industry associations highlighted regulatory challenges and sector initiatives, including the introduction of the new EuPIA Charter, studies on regulatory costs by CEPE, and ongoing efforts to swing classification proposals such as for talc or silica.

In the area of food contact materials, the European Commission is proposing stricter requirements for recycled plastics, while Germany launched preparations for the 2031 evaluation of its Printing Ink Ordinance. Internationally, Argentina updated its food contact plastics positive list and new legislation was introduced in the United States seeking prohibition of PFAS, phthalates, bisphenols and other substances in food packaging.

In the EU several significant developments may affect the chemical and printing ink sectors. These include ongoing discussions on PFAS restrictions, renewed classification activities for substances such as TMP (Propylidynetrimethanol) and synthetic amorphous silica, implementation of the One Substance One Assessment framework, and preparation for future Digital Product Passport requirements. At the same time, the European Commission has indicated that a comprehensive revision of REACH will not proceed, favouring targeted simplification and modernisation measures instead.

Globally, authorities continue to strengthen chemicals management frameworks. Canada finalised its nanomaterials risk assessment framework, Turkey introduced temporary registration measures under KKDİK (Turkey REACH), the UK is extending UK REACH deadlines and preparing to adopt the new EU CLP hazard classes, while Pakistan published a roadmap for implementing GHS-based classification and labelling by 2031. Together, these developments underline the continued expansion of regulatory obligations and the importance of compliance strategies for companies operating internationally.





Industry Associations – Opinions And Positions

EuPIA Exclusion Policy became EuPIA Charter

The [EuPIA Charter on raw material selection and exclusion for printing inks and related products](#) – formerly EuPIA Exclusion Policy - marks a new chapter in protecting the health and safety of workers

and end users of printed materials. The Charter remains a voluntary commitment and applies to the manufacture and supply of all types of printing inks and related products, for use in any application and on any substrate in Europe.

One of its key principles is the substitution of substances that pose a severe health risk. For non-threshold substances - chemicals that do not have a defined safe level of exposure (threshold) below - substitution is mandatory within a default period of one year. For threshold substances continued use is allowed where substitution is not possible and a thorough risk assessment demonstrates that there is no risk in the respective application. These clearly defined use cases, evaluated and approved by the EuPIA Technical Committee, will be reviewed biennially to reassess the situation.

The Charter will not apply retrospectively; substances already classified with a human health hazard under the former Exclusion Policy will not be re-evaluated, as they are considered to have already been substituted.

VdMi 75th jubilee

The Verband der Mineralfarbenindustrie ([VdMi](#)) recently celebrated its 75th anniversary in Frankfurt, marking an important milestone in the association's history. Founded in its current legal form in 1951, the VdMi has played a key role in representing manufacturers of pigments, fillers, masterbatches, food colorants, and other specialty color-related products in Germany. During the anniversary celebration, which took place alongside the association's general assembly, numerous members and former members came together to commemorate the achievements of the organization and its contribution to the chemical and colour industries.



CEPE 75th anniversary and Costs of Compliance Study

The European Council of the Paint, Printing Ink and Artists' Colours Industry ([CEPE](#)) is also celebrating its 75th anniversary of representing and advancing the interests of the European coatings sector. To commemorate this, CEPE launched a study to assess how the 2026 regulatory landscape affects member companies, as well as collect updated data points on the economic footprint of the European paints, coatings, and printing inks industry. The survey focuses on companies across the EU27, plus the UK, Norway, and Switzerland.

Food Contact Materials

European Commission proposes stricter rules for recycled plastic used in FCMs

The European Commission is planning to tighten controls on imported recycled plastic used in food contact materials (FCMs) and require manufacturers to provide more comprehensive compliance documents. EU regulation [2022/16161](#) outlines the rules for the use of recycled plastics in FCMs.

The EU executive said the “experience gained” since the regulation came into force in 2022 shows that businesses need more clarity on the rules governing the registration of recycling installations and compliance documentation.

The Commission’s [proposal](#) – submitted to the WTO on 15 April – is to add a new section to the regulation clarifying when operators should provide compliance documentation, to improve traceability of plastics along the supply chain.

Regarding imports the Commission proposes requiring importers to present commodity codes for certain recycled plastics to customs authorities, to “prevent non-compliant plastic materials” being released into the EU market and “maintain traceability of the origin of the imported materials”.

The EU executive also proposes removing the requirement to include batch numbers for certain compliance declarations. Currently, batch numbers must be provided to operators using recycled plastic at the final production stage. However, the Commission said including them is complex and “not needed after the point in the manufacturing chain where the composition of the plastic is not further modified”. Instead, it proposes allowing operators using post-processed recycled plastic at the final production stage to issue simplified declarations without batch numbers.

If approved, the amendments would come into force 20 days after publication in the EU Official Journal.



Evaluation of the German Printing Ink Ordinance

The German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) invited industry stakeholders in May 2026 for a technical meeting regarding the planned evaluation of the German Printing Inks Ordinance (GIO). An evaluation is mandatory 5 years after the entry into force to ensure the effectiveness of the regulation and its enforcement by the competent state authorities. As the transition period ends in 2026, the evaluation is envisaged for 2031.

To ensure a meaningful evaluation the Federal Office considered it necessary to discuss potential parameters at an early stage. The parameters should allow an assessment of the functionality, effectiveness and implementation of the regulation. Furthermore, the actual costs associated with compliance could be reviewed.

During the meeting the Federal Office proposed to take the following points for evaluation into account:

- possible reduction of exposure towards certain substances,
- a comparison of the substances actually used (before and after the entry into force) and migration thereof
- number of submitted dossiers and listed substances
- compliance with migration limits
- possible implications for compliance throughout the supply chain

In addition, the Federal Office proposed to focus on specific chemical groups and to develop a concerted monitoring program. Feedback and additional ideas are welcome until end of October.

The Federal Office furthermore noted that the number of submitted dossiers for listing was rather low since end of 2025 and that no additional extension of the transition period is foreseen.

VdL Information Note on the German Printing Ink Ordinance

The transition period for the so-called German Printing Ink Ordinance (GIO) ends in December 2026. The German Paint and Printing Ink Association (VdL) recommends that all customers in the converting industry use the time gained to complete the transition to the new requirements as soon as possible. An [Information Note](#) released in June this year provides background information and summarizes the regulatory requirements of the GIO and practical consequences thereof. The Note is available in German and English.



Argentina updates list of substances authorised for use in food contact plastics

Argentina updated its positive list of substances for the manufacture of plastic containers and equipment intended to contact food. Adopted on 2 June, the joint resolution (6/2026) from Argentina's Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries and its National Administration of Drugs, Food and Medical Devices (ANMAT) incorporates MERCOSUR GMC Resolution No 19/21 into Argentine law.

The resolution adds 20 substances to the positive list of monomers, polymers and other materials approved in the manufacture of food contact plastics and updates the list of use restrictions for certain authorised substances.

Argentina's joint resolution also incorporates two other MERCOSUR measures, covering general requirements for plastic packaging and equipment (GMC Resolution 20/21) and cellulosic food contact materials (FCMs) (GMC Resolution 21/21). With the joint resolution, Argentina becomes the fourth MERCOSUR member country to incorporate the 2021 food contact measures, following Brazil in late 2021, Paraguay in 2022 and Uruguay in 2024-25, according to MERCOSUR.

US Congress Democrats introduce bill to ban PFAS, phthalates, bisphenols in food packaging

A trio of Democratic lawmakers in the US Congress introduced legislation to ban PFAS, phthalates, bisphenols and 12 other substances from food packaging and food processing materials. Introduced by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut) and Representatives Jan [Schakowsky](#) (D-Illinois) and Rosa DeLauro (D-Connecticut), the [bill](#) would prohibit the use of 15 types of substances or classes of substances by designating them as “unsafe for use as food contact substances” (FCSs).

The three classes of chemicals targeted in the bill are: ortho-phthalates, defined as the class of chemicals that are non-polymeric esters of ortho-phthalic acid; PFAS, defined as perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances containing at least one fully fluorinated methyl or methylene carbon atom; and bisphenol A, B, S, F, AF and related compounds. Twelve additional individual substances, many of which are also subject to review or restrictions under TSCA, would also be prohibited under the food packaging bill.

As introduced, the restrictions would take effect two years after the bill's enactment into law.



Europe – Upcoming Chemicals Legislations and Guidance Documents

ECHA suggests reset of amorphous silica classification proposal

Resubmitting the Dutch proposal on harmonised classification and labelling (CLH) of synthetic amorphous silica (SAS) “may be a good option, amongst others”, for resolving substance identity issues raised by industry, ECHA has said.

The agency outlines in a [22 June document](#) that it “reconsidered” comments on substance identity from the Association of Synthetic Amorphous Silica Producers (ASASP) and others and identified issues requiring clarification. There is uncertainty about what types and forms of synthetic amorphous silica (SAS) are in scope, and clarity is needed on whether and how dry and wet process forms should be treated differently, the agency said. There is also an issue with aligning key chemical names with certain structural information, it said.

The substance identity and the scope of the classification are “insufficiently defined”, the ASASP said in a [16 June document](#). In addition, new data from electron microscopy of lung tissue from rat inhalation studies bolsters the argument that adverse effects seen in such studies are not relevant to humans, the ASASP said.

ECHA has however no power to compel withdrawal and resubmission of the CLH dossier, which is the responsibility of the dossier submitter, Dutch public health institute RIVM. Withdrawing the dossier would effectively restart the CLH process, leading to another consultation and RAC opinion.

RIVM said that resubmitting the dossier is not currently the authority's preferred option. The scope of the classification as presented in the dossier is determined by the grouping used by the registrants, which includes all “sub-forms” of SAS, it said. “At the time of drafting the dossier, there was insufficient information available in the registration dossier to specify the scope in more detail. We will continue our discussions internally and with ECHA to determine the best way forward.”



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Talc – CARACAL meeting and EFSA call for data

In July 2025, the European Chemicals Agency's (ECHA) Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) proposed classifying talc as a Carcinogen Category 1B under the European Union's classification, labelling, and packaging (CLP) Regulation. If adopted as proposed, this classification would have far-reaching consequences across industries relying on talc, including automotive, ceramics, cosmetics, inks, paints and plastics, among others.

On 1 July 2026, the European Commission, Member State Competent Authorities, and industry representatives discussed the dossier at the CLP Open Session of the [58th CARACAL meeting](#). Several Member States (including the dossier submitter, the Netherlands) acknowledged the immense complexity of the case. They expressed support for delaying the decision by one year to address unresolved scientific questions, particularly surrounding Poorly Soluble Low Toxicity (PSLT) particles and exposure routes. The possibility to move forward with the STOT RE classification independently was raised. [EUROTALC](#) is actively advocating for a one-year postponement of the European Commission's decision on talc. The postponement would be welcome to await scientific evaluations (including ECHA and EFSA reviews) and to advocate for a limitation of any classification to the inhalation of the respirable fraction.



In parallel the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published a [call for data](#) for Talc E 553b: in August 2018, EFSA completed the re-evaluation of talc (E 553b) as a food additive and concluded that the safety of talc could not be assessed. In the meantime, the requirements for nanomaterials in feed and food have been updated and the RAC opinion on talc was published. The European Commission asked EFSA to take both points into consideration for decision making. EFSA launched therefore the present public call for data in order to acquire documented information until July 2027. Specifically in vitro data on gene mutation in mammalian cells and a so-called ADME-study (absorption-distribution-metabolism-excretion) performed with nanomaterial are requested

New proposal for a harmonized classification for TMP

TMP (Propylidynetrimethanol, CAS 77-99-6) was proposed to be classified for developmental and reproductive effects (Repr. 1B, H360Df) in May 2022. Due to resource constraints from the dossier submitter Finland, the CLH intention for TMP was [withdrawn](#) in March 2026 and the status of the CLH process was depicted as closed. In June 2026 Norway took over and prepared a [new CLH intention](#) proposing now a harmonized classification for developmental effects (Repr. 1B, H360D). The submission of the CLH dossier is expected until end of December. TMP is used in the ink industry, specifically in high-performance and modern curing inks. It serves as a core building block to improve ink adhesion, drying speed, and durability

Second edition of the PPWR FAQ document

In August 2026 the European Commission (EC) published the second edition of the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#) of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR). It includes new and updated information as compared to the first version published in March 2026. The FAQ seeks to clarify some issues and to answer questions that have been received by Directorate-Generale (DG) Environment since the adoption of the Regulation. The most recent version includes definitions for roles in the supply chain such as manufacturer and producer of various packaging products. Chapter III is all about Substances of Concern (SoC), their definition, limit values for heavy metals and compliance in general. The chapter also answers questions about PFAS in packing materials.

The new FAQ document provides furthermore information on the traceability within the supply chain, responsibilities of third parties or the consequences of non-compliance.

PFAS restriction split under consideration

EU environment commissioner Jessika Roswall reprised a suggestion to split the upcoming PFAS restriction between consumer and industrial uses, a proposal backed by powerful industry groups but strongly opposed by NGOs. Her remarks, made during a high-level meeting on 15 June, signal the European Commission's continued inclination to narrow the initial scope of the wide-ranging restriction, allowing continued use of PFAS in critical industrial applications where alternatives are not yet available. The Commission said in a [statement](#) after the meeting that it would consider a ban on PFAS in consumer goods, whereas for industrial applications, "continued use may be permitted for critical uses where adequate alternatives are not yet available, but only under strict conditions and until acceptable substitutes have been developed". The meeting was part of the Commission's Chemicals Industry Action Plan, which brought together a broad range of stakeholders, including PFAS producers and users, as well as developers of alternatives. It came after ECHA's consultation on the [socio-economic impacts](#) of the restriction received more than 3,500 responses, primarily from industry stakeholders. The final opinion of the agency's Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC), due by the end of the year, will mark a decisive step in the EU's years-long effort to restrict PFAS

Deal on simplification of cosmetics



In June, Council and European Parliament negotiators reached a political agreement on the Commission's "Omnibus VI" package to simplify provisions relating to cosmetics products, the classification, packaging, and labelling of chemicals (CLP), and fertilising products.

The co-legislators agreed to phase out cosmetics containing prohibited CMR (carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic) substances faster than the Commission had proposed. Where a substance is not defended for continued use, companies will have — once the ban takes effect — 6 months to stop placing affected products on the market and 12 months before they can no longer be made available — as opposed to the Commission's 12 and 24 months, though still

longer than the current rules, which set no staggered transition. Companies wanting to keep using a substance will have up to 12 months from its new classification to request a derogation, and the phase-out clock starts only once that request is decided. If the derogation is refused on safety grounds, the company will then have 3 months to stop placing products on the market and 9 months before they can no longer be made available. If it is refused due to the availability of a suitable alternative, 24 and 36 months.

The co-legislators also decided against exempting CMR substances based on oral or inhalation exposure as otherwise proposed by the Commission and reintroduced the requirement for cosmetic products containing nanomaterials to be notified to the Commission prior to being placed on the market, but not 6 months prior as currently. To accelerate the replacement of hazardous substances in cosmetic products, the Commission will develop guidance specifying the analysis of alternatives one year after entry into force of this legislation.

Revision of the toy safety regulation and CMR restriction for childcare products

The revised EU's Toy Safety Regulation entered into force on 1 January, formally replacing the Toy Safety Directive. Most of the regulation's substantive provisions will apply after a transition period ending on 1 August 2030. Until then, parts of the directive continue to apply, allowing industry to adapt and enabling the Commission to adopt secondary legislation, including delegated acts. The regulation includes many articles from the old directive but also a new chapter with the obligation to create a digital product passport (DPP) for the toy (chapter V, Article 19). Substances classified under CLP as CMR (1A, 1B and 2), endocrine disruptor (category 1 and 2), STOT RE1 or sensitizer category 1 must not be used and may be exempted only if the substance is not intentionally added and its presence is unavoidable due to the manufacturing process (GMP). In parallel the European Commission launched an initiative to restrict CMR 1A and 1B substances in childcare products such as pushchairs, cots, dummies and nappies. The draft proposal targets childcare products containing CMR substances above a concentration of 0.001% in any homogeneous material. While the Toy Safety Regulation includes also CMR 2 substances and endocrine disruptors the initiative for childcare products does not which could create regulatory inconsistencies.

REACH revision stopped

European Environment Commissioner Jessika Roswall has said that “[now is not the time to open REACH](#)”, confirming months of speculation that the EU executive is stepping back from its long-awaited revision of the union’s flagship chemicals legislation. Instead, the Commission will focus on “simplification and modernisation” measures adopted through comitology, she said, alongside a separate initiative to improve enforcement. The announcement follows several years of delays and uncertainty around the planned overhaul. Instead of a full revision more limited changes to REACH could be made by amending its annexes through the comitology process, involving EU countries in the REACH committee. Some members of the European Parliament have issued their verdict on the European Commission’s withdrawal of the planned revision. They are concerned that potential new legislative procedures would exclude the Parliament, that EU is moving towards a “minimal reform” and a loss of trust in the European Commission.



One Substance One Assessment – Data Platform Regulation

‘One substance – one assessment’ (OSOA) refers to a [legislative framework](#) of the European Union (EU) designed to enable more coordinated, efficient and transparent chemical safety assessments. The framework aims to facilitate shared access to reliable data among relevant authorities and to strengthen scientific cooperation on chemicals. OSOA applies to a wide range of products regulated at EU level, including biocides, pesticides, food and toys. The legislative framework entered into force on 1 January 2026 and consists of three legislative acts. One central element of the OSOA framework is establishing a new common data platform (CDP) on chemicals used in the EU under [Regulation \(EU\) 2025/2455](#). The aim is to support close cooperation and systematic data sharing between EU bodies involved in chemical safety assessments. The data platform is expected to be operational in 2029. The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) will manage the CDP with support from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and three other EU agencies involved in chemical safety assessments. These are the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Environment Agency (EEA), and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA). Importantly, companies will be required to notify any studies generating chemical data that they commission to support an application, notification or regulatory dossier submitted to an authority. This includes studies carried out as part of risk or safety assessments under relevant Union legislation. At the time of commissioning, companies must inform the laboratory or testing facility that the study is subject to this notification obligation.

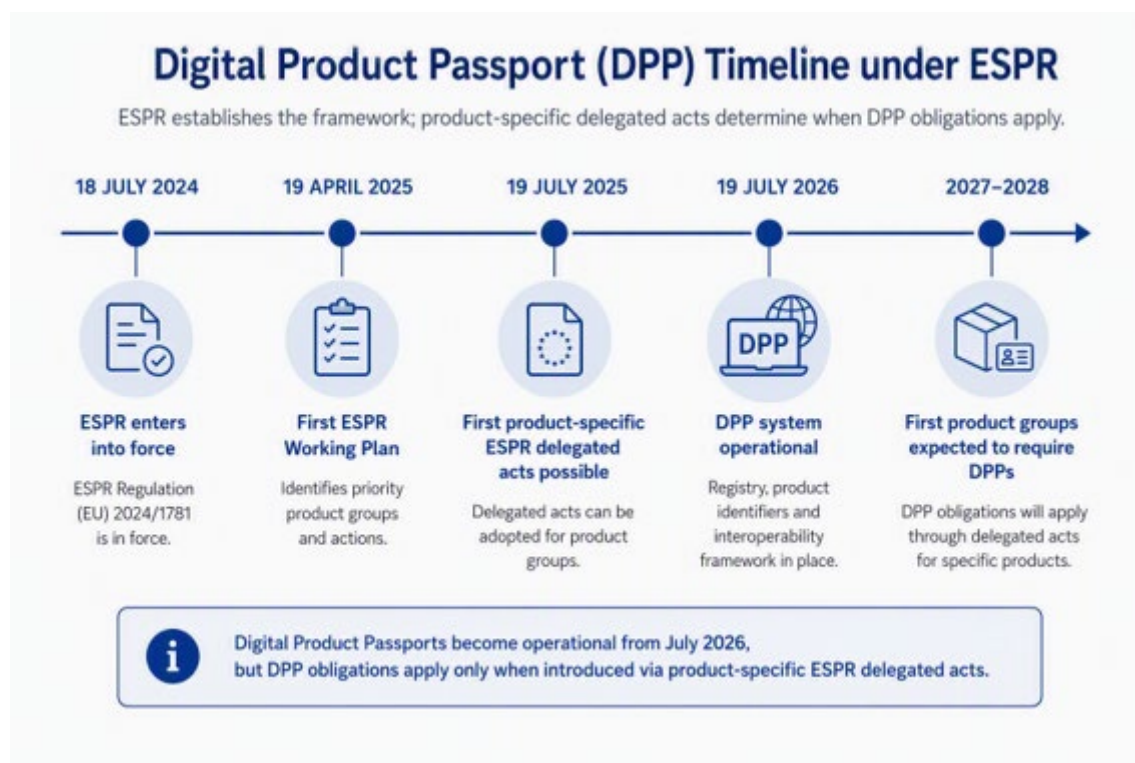
Upcoming requirement: the Digital Product Passport

The Digital Product Passport (DPP) is a digital record designed to provide standardized information about a product throughout its entire lifecycle. It is a key element of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR, Regulation (EU) 2024/1781), which entered into force on 18 July 2024. The DPP is intended to improve transparency, sustainability, and circularity by making relevant product information accessible through a unique digital identifier, typically linked to a QR code. Depending on the product category, the passport may contain information on product composition, environmental performance, reparability, recyclability, and the presence of specific chemicals.

Although ESPR is already in force, DPP obligations are not yet applicable. Detailed requirements will be defined through future delegated acts, with implementation occurring gradually by product sector. Iron and steel, aluminum, textiles, furniture and certain energy-related products are among the first product groups prioritized under ESPR. In the longer term, the EU may extend DPP requirements to sectors including chemical products, textiles or electronic devices, potentially creating a common product information system across the European market by around 2035.

A key aspect of the DPP is the communication of Substances of Concern (SoCs). ESPR identifies four categories: Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs) under REACH, Substances with relevant harmonized classification under CLP, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Substances that negatively affect reuse, repair, or recycling. For reportable substances, the passport may include substance identity, concentration, and relevant safety or end-of-life instructions.

Printing inks and pigments are not currently subject to specific DPP requirements. However, they may be affected indirectly if they contain SoCs or negatively impact recycling and circularity, in which case relevant information may need to be provided through the DPP of the final product. Furthermore, as “chemical products” are being considered for future DPP coverage, specialty chemicals used in inks and coatings could become subject to dedicated DPP reporting requirements under future EU delegated acts



Global Regulations – Upcoming Changes

Canada finalises framework for risk assessments of nanomaterials

The Canadian government released a finalised [framework](#) outlining the process and considerations it will use to assess the potential health and environmental risks of [nanomaterials](#). Published on 5 March, the document sets out how Health Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) will account for the “unique characteristics” of nanoscale substances. The framework applies to [nanomaterials on the Domestic Substances List](#) (DSL) that are already commercially available in the country, as well as those newly introduced to the Canadian market. Assessments of nanomaterials will build on the same general principles as those for bulk substances, Health Canada and the ECCC said. But because nanoscale substances may exhibit different characteristics from the bulk form of the same substance, the agencies said they will use a “weight of evidence approach to combine the multiple lines of evidence and their uncertainties to conclude whether a nanomaterial” meets the toxicity criteria under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA).



With respect to data, nanomaterial risk assessments will rely on available databases for nanomaterials, as well as nano-specific human and environmental exposure models, read-across strategies to extrapolate information from similar substances, and quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR) models for predicting effects. When characterising environmental risks from nanomaterials, Health Canada and the ECCC said their assessments will look at how nanomaterials are transported in the environment, their environmental fate, and their persistence and predicted concentrations. As for human health risks, assessments will consider potential exposure from the use of consumer products, food consumption, and environmental media such as indoor air, dust and water, according to the framework. Health Canada and the ECCC said the methods outlined in the framework will allow them to decide whether risk management measures are needed for specific nanomaterials and, if so, inform the determination of the best action to reduce or prevent risk to human health or the environment.

KKDIK deadline for temporary individual registrations

Facing the low number of lead registrants the [Turkish government allows temporary individual registrations](#) under its KKDIK chemicals regime. Under the measure, firms unable to join a registration or not receiving a Letter of Access (LoA) for the required data may file for themselves until end of quarter 3. Thus, for substances imported into Turkey from 1 October, either a full or temporary registration must be submitted by 30 September across all tonnage bands.

Even where a lead registrant has already submitted a full dossier, member companies may file an individual temporary registration, providing an explanation for this, such as disproportionate cost sharing, confidentiality concerns or disagreements among registrants, the ministry said. For substances manufactured or imported for the first time after 30 September, companies must submit an inquiry for temporary or full registration and obtain a registration number before placing them on the market.

Melih Babayigit of CRAD consultancy said the current geopolitical climate, in which governments are increasingly prioritising domestic industry and economic resilience, may help explain what he described as a “fast track” step that temporarily sidesteps full data requirements. However, Babayigit warned that, over the longer term, the measure could create new uncertainties, making it harder for consortia to pull together complete datasets for future joint submissions.

UK HSE opinion on Silica

In spring 2026 the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) published their conclusion of the [technical report for synthetic amorphous silica](#) and proposed no classification but stated that further assessment needed. This is in contradiction with the RAC Opinion which proposed a classification as STOT RE 1 (H372). The agency is aware that extra scientific information not discussed in the [RAC opinion](#) is available. Therefore, to conduct a full assessment of all available data, synthetic amorphous silica will be assessed for STOT RE in a targeted Article 37A Mandatory Classification and Labelling (MCL) proposal.

UK preparing regulation to adopt new EU CLP hazard classes

The UK is drafting legislation to adopt the EU's new CLP hazard classes, according to regulatory and industry sources. They said that the government plans to introduce the six new hazard classes "voluntarily", following a decision to align UK chemical regulations more closely with the EU. A consultation on the draft legislation is expected in autumn 2026, with the changes – mirroring those adopted by the EU in 2023 – set to take effect following parliamentary approval, the sources said. As part of an overhaul of the domestic CLP regime that took effect on 21 May, the government has removed the statutory obligation to consider EU classification opinions. However, the UK's decision to align its chemicals regime more closely with the bloc – partly to ease trade with Northern Ireland, which follows EU rules – has left limited scope for divergence on classification decisions, including the new hazard classes.

In the course of a [business survey](#) from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) the British Coatings Federation (BCF) said its members are generally in favour of alignment on hazard classes as this will ease trade with the EU and Northern Ireland. But with the UK outside the EU, Britain-based companies would still need an EU-based legal entity to fulfil labelling obligations when placing products on the single market, including in Northern Ireland, BCF said.



Extended UK REACH registration deadlines become law

The UK government has formally extended UK REACH registration deadlines, postponing key compliance requirements under the independent regime by three years. The new timetable, set out in a [statutory instrument published on 16 July](#), introduces phased deadlines between 27 October 2029, 2030 and 2031 depending on tonnage bands and hazard classifications. The changes will take effect on 6 August. During a House of Lords debate on 7 July, Defra minister Baroness Hayman of Ullock sought to reassure industry that the revised timetable would be final, saying the government had "no intention of extending the deadlines further".



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Pakistan targets 2031 for GHS 8 implementation

Pakistan is aiming to start classifying and labelling hazardous chemicals under the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) from 1 January 2031, as part of a [national adoption plan](#) submitted to parliament. The plan sets out how the country intends to align its chemicals management system, including the use of safety data sheets (SDSs), with international standards over a phased implementation period leading up to that date.

It outlines a five year transition period from 2026 to 2030, during which industry would move from existing domestic classification and labelling practices to GHS Rev.8 (GHS 8), or a later edition, ahead of the 2031 deadline. The framework applies across four sectors: industrial workplaces, consumer products, transport and agriculture.

The adoption plan acknowledges that Pakistan currently lacks the legal and institutional infrastructure needed to implement GHS. It links future implementation to the Pakistan EPA (Pak EPA)'s draft Handling, Manufacture, Storage, Import of Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Substances Rules 2016 – a proposed framework under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA), 1997. Under these draft rules, imported hazardous substances would be required to carry UN GHS labels, and workplaces handling them would be subject to specific safety requirements. If approved, the rules would provide the legal basis for GHS adoption.

The [implementation roadmap](#) is divided into four phases running from July 2026 to June 2031.

The first phase focuses on coordination and communication, including establishing a national GHS coordinating committee, sectoral working groups and stakeholder committees within the first year.

The second phase involves a situation and gap analysis of legislation, institutional roles, administrative capacity, industry practices and hazard communication. This would be followed by legal analysis, development of an implementation framework and stakeholder workshops.

During the third phase, a draft national GHS implementation strategy would be prepared in the second half of year two, setting out activities, timelines, expected outcomes and responsible entities. This stage would also include developing a technical training strategy using internationally recognised materials, with input from industry and civil society.

The final phase covers execution of the strategy, including implementation activities and a transition period running from year three through year five, concluding in June 2031.

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