

WHAT IS K-REACH?

The Act on Registration and Evaluation of Chemical Substances (known as K-REACH) was published on January 1, 2015. K-REACH aims to protect public health and the environment, which is achieved through four procedures, namely notification or registration, evaluation, authorization, and restriction of chemicals.

Under K-REACH, depending on if a substance is listed in the inventory, chemical substances can be divided into 3 categories, which are existing substances, new substances, and Priority Existing Chemicals (PEC) substances. Compliance procedures differ according to the substance categories and tonnage band.

There are 2 types of exemptions: confirmation required exemption and no action required exemption. The proof of exemption should be submitted for the confirmation required exemption.

WHO IS CONCERNED?

- ◆ **Korea-based manufacturers and importers of chemical substances**
Importers and manufacturers must pre-register or register chemical substances before placing them on the market.
- ◆ **Non-Korea-based manufacturers who wish to export chemical substances to Korea**
Exporters may appoint a Korea-based Only Representative (OR) to carry out the pre-registration or registration.

HOW TO COMPLY?

New substances

Under K-REACH, new substances above 0.1 Tonne Per Annum (TPA) should be registered prior to placing them in Korea. For new substances less than 0.1 TPA, they only require notification.

PEC substances

PEC substances above 1 TPA should be registered prior to placing the substances in Korea. Pre-registration is not possible as the transition period already passed in 2018.

Existing substances

Existing substances above 1 TPA must be registered within the given grace period. Grace periods vary based on tonnage band. Existing substances can be pre-registered before their grace periods. Only companies that carried out pre-registration can be entitled to grace periods. After the grace periods for each tonnage band, existing substances within that tonnage band cannot be pre-registered, and they should be registered prior to placing the substances in Korea.

The upcoming deadline is December 31st, 2024, for 100-1000 TPA.

Tonnage band	Registration deadline
1000+ TPA	2021.12.31
100-1000 TPA	2024.12.31
10-100 TPA	2027.12.31
1-10 TPA	2030.12.31

We have set up an Only Representative (OR) facility in Korea, 'GPC Korea', to assist our existing and new clients in complying with their obligations under K-REACH!

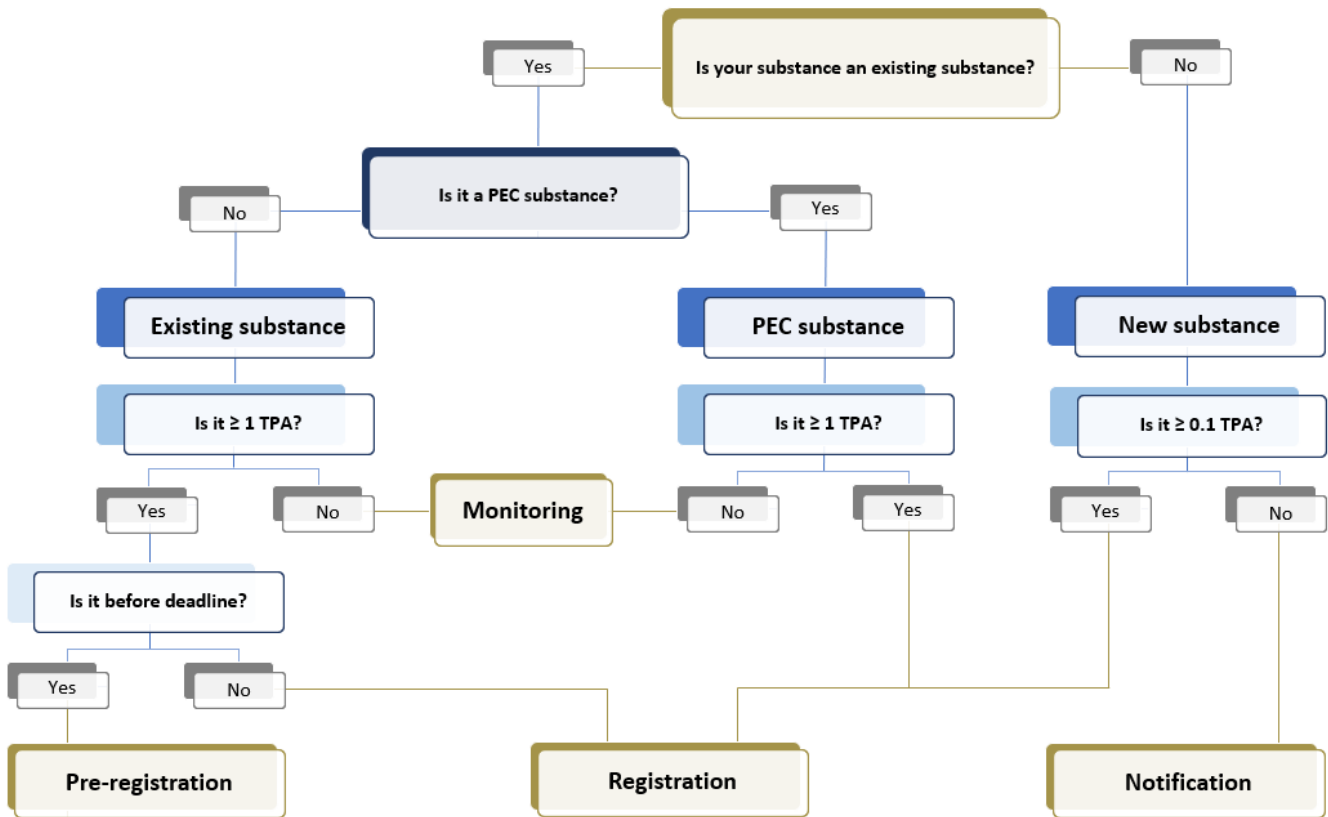
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Which procedure applies to your business?



Q&As –K-REACH

1. How long does it take to get the registration number?

If there is Lead Registrant (LR) who has already registered, it takes 1-2 month to purchase Letter of Access (LOA) and prepare individual dossier. After that, it will take another 1-2 month for the authority to examine and grant a registration number.

2. What is the role of an OR?

An OR is a legal entity established physically in Korea, with sufficient knowledge about legal compliance under K-REACH. It is mandatory for non-Korea-based companies wishing to register a chemical substance they export to South Korea to appoint a Korean OR. ORs are appointed by a mutual agreement and are responsible for complying with the legal requirements under K-REACH.

ACTION POINTS:

- Check if the substance is in the existing substance or PEC substance inventory.
- Check the registration deadline based on the substance categorization and tonnage band.
- Identify a competent OR to take responsibilities for your K-REACH compliances.
- Update all the relevant information needed to prepare a joint dossier and individual dossier.
- Be transparent to your OR and give complete information to avoid any non-compliance.