

A large, abstract splash of teal ink on a white background, creating a dynamic and fluid visual effect. The ink forms various shapes and patterns, including swirls and elongated streaks, filling most of the frame.

REACH IS HERE

REACH is important new EU
legislation on chemicals that
you need to know about.

REACH
UK Competent Authority

WILL IT AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS?

REACH will impact on almost all UK business sectors. From retailers to builders, food manufacturers to printers – most businesses use some form of chemicals in their day-to-day operations. This leaflet will tell you where you fit into REACH and what you need to do next.

What is REACH?

REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) is the new system for controlling chemicals in Europe and became law across the EU, including in the UK on 1 June 2007.

How might REACH affect you?

Even businesses that wouldn't normally think of themselves as being involved with chemicals can be affected by it. Many businesses rely on chemicals in some way without realising it. If you answer 'YES' to any of these questions, you need to find out more about REACH and what it means.

Do you make chemicals?

If you make chemicals either to use yourself or to supply to other people (even if it's for export) then it's likely that you will have some important responsibilities under REACH. To find out more about what these might be, read REACH CA information leaflet number 2 – What REACH means for chemical manufacturers.

Do you buy anything from outside Europe?

If you import anything from outside the EU, be it individual chemicals, (eg pigments, polymers), mixtures for onwards sale (eg paints, inks, cosmetics) or finished products like clothes or plastic goods then it's quite possible that you may have some responsibilities under REACH. To find out if you are likely to be affected by REACH, read REACH CA information leaflet number 3 – What REACH means for EU importers.

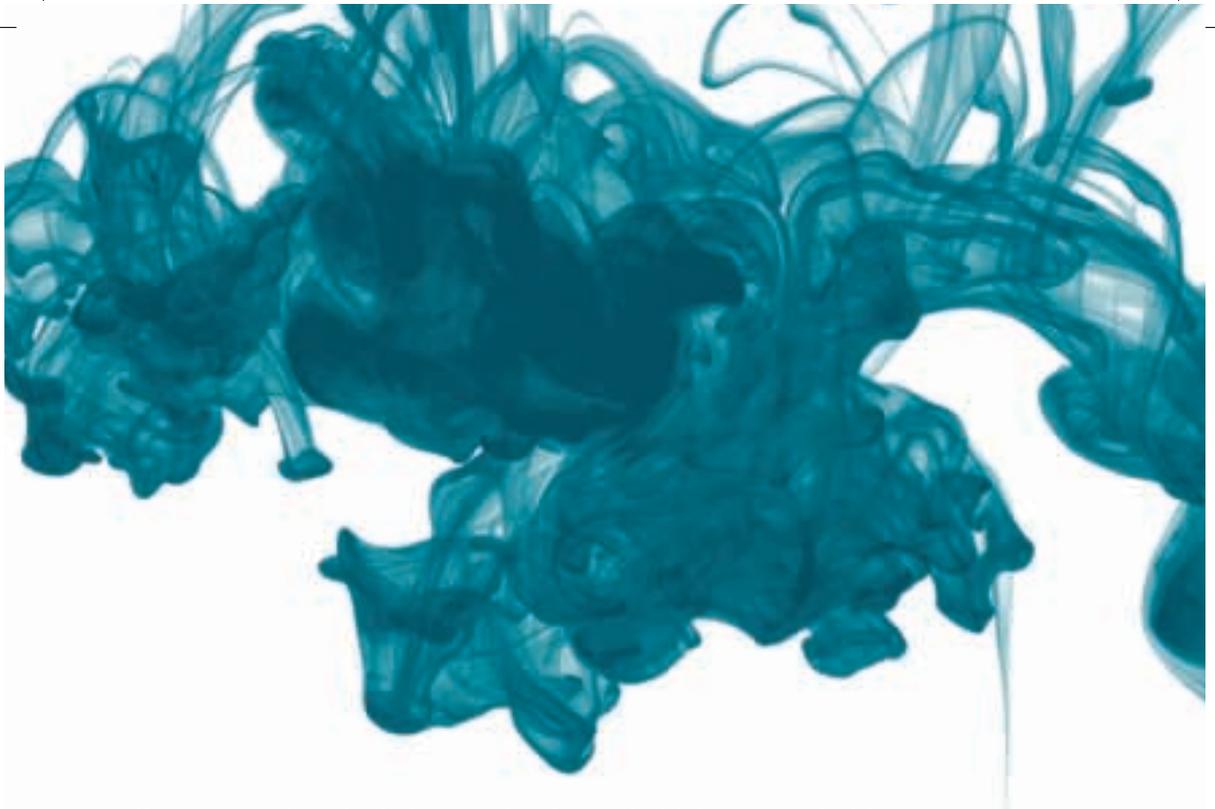
Do you use chemicals in your business?

If your initial answer is no, think again. Most businesses use chemicals and many rely on them without realising it, for example manufacture or for keeping premises clean. Examples include paints, metals, glues, solvents, or cleaning materials.

As a user, REACH may make things better for you as it's designed to provide more information on chemicals and increase confidence in their safe use. The good news is that, if you are using widely available chemicals in ways that are quite safe, REACH probably won't mean big changes for you. You should still find out more so that you can be sure.

If your business relies on receiving specialist chemicals, or ones that aren't very common, you may need to be sure that these will still be available in the future.



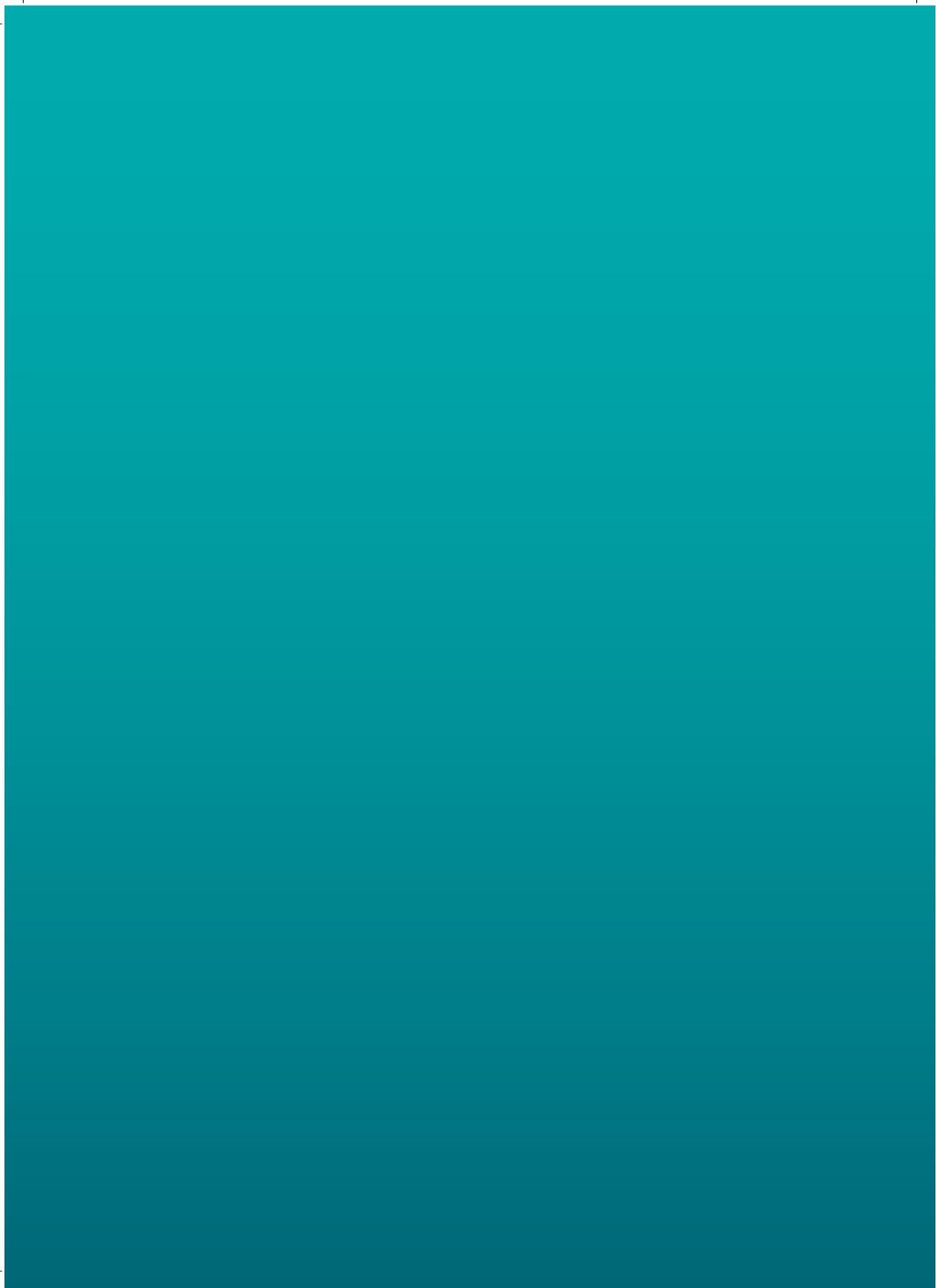


If you use chemicals in your business (which you probably do!) then to find out more about how REACH might affect you, read REACH CA information leaflet number 4 – What REACH means to users of chemicals.

What does the Competent Authority do?

REACH places responsibilities on a wide range of businesses. As the regulatory authority we need to make sure that these responsibilities are met but we are also here to help you.

This is the first in a series of leaflets from the Regulatory Authority responsible for REACH in the UK.



What should you do now?

Whatever your business is, find out more today – don't leave it until it's too late!

The leaflets mentioned here will help you work out how REACH might affect you and what you need to do next. Download the leaflets from the UK REACH Competent Authority website and get more information on REACH, including links to other source of help and advice.

The CA website can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/reach