

Ensuring product compliance in the era of quick & easy online shopping

How to overcome the challenges?

Do you own or operate an online platform or web store that enables the trading of chemical products? Do you engage in purchasing chemical substances or mixtures from various online platforms? If yes, then there are critical compliance considerations to take into account while conducting your e-commerce activities.

What is the current landscape like?

The accessibility, convenience and rapid growth of online shopping, further accelerated by the global health crisis (COVID-19), has led to an increase in the sale of products, including those containing hazardous chemicals. The decentralised nature of online sales platforms creates challenges when it comes to overseeing and regulating the sale of products, especially those that contain dangerous chemicals. Unlike traditional physical stores, online platforms often involve numerous sellers, making it difficult for authorities to monitor and enforce adherence to chemical regulations. This presents a significant challenge for authorities in ensuring compliance and safeguarding the health of consumers and the environment.

Given these circumstances, online platforms have unfortunately enabled the unauthorised trading of and access to restricted chemicals by individuals who are not permitted to possess them, such as the general public. This widespread availability of restricted chemicals in online sales represents clear instances of non-compliance with CLP (Classification, Labelling and Packaging) and REACH regulations.

Key considerations to tackle product compliance challenges in online sales

By considering the following points, online sellers can proactively address the challenges of product compliance and foster a safe environment for consumers engaged in online purchases of chemical products while ensuring the businesses to mitigate the risks associated with non-compliance.

1. ECHA's Enforcement Forum (REF - 8): Stay updated with the guidelines and recommendations provided by the European Chemicals Agency's Enforcement Forum (REF - 8). This forum provides a platform where compliance of certain CLP, REACH and BPR duties related to substances, mixtures and articles sold online were assessed.
2. Duty of online suppliers: Recognize the responsibility of online suppliers to comply with relevant regulations and laws regarding the sale of chemical products. Suppliers should thoroughly understand and adhere to the requirements imposed by CLP and REACH regulations.
3. Responsibilities for different online platforms: Differentiate the responsibilities of various online platforms involved

in the sales process, such as websites, web shops, and marketplaces. Each platform should be aware of their obligations and actively collaborate with suppliers to ensure compliance.

4. Requirements for restricted substances: Pay careful attention to the restrictions on certain substances imposed by CLP and REACH regulations. Online sellers must refrain from offering products that contain restricted substances to the general public. Remain vigilant and make required updates to your product catalogues to ensure compliance with these restrictions.
5. Transfer of health-relevant information to the consumer: Facilitate the transfer of health-relevant information to consumers during the online sales process. Clearly communicate any potential hazards associated with the chemical products, provide safety instructions, and ensure that product labelling and documentation comply with regulations.

Ready to take the first step towards product compliance in online sales?

Join Yordas Insight's courses today and ensure a compliant and responsible approach to selling chemical products in the digital marketplace. You can conveniently choose between a virtual half-day classroom and an in-person training session according to your availability and needs. **Find out more: Virtual Classroom | In-Person Training (Manchester).**



As a Chemicals Northwest member you can also receive an additional £20 discount! Contact Jodie to receive this at j.kershaw@yordasgroup.com

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