The European Automotive Industry Association (ACEA) has agreed on a set of criteria for the use of sustainable chemicals in the automotive industry. This should help vehicle manufacturers and their supply chain avoid so-called regrettable substitutions.

It is the aim for chemical manufacturers to use the criteria when starting new developments or when identifying alternatives to supply in place of regulated substances.

The criteria also puts more emphasis on communication between the automotive industry and chemical manufacturers when developing a solution to a regulated substance that needs replacing.

The related ACEA communication can be downloaded as Annex O to the Automotive Industry Guidance on REACH V4.0

see: https://www.acea.be/publications/article/reach-automotive-industry-guideline

It is the recommendation to all global suppliers to take note of these criteria and also to implement these into the company standards and requirements.

2. Updated version of the Automotive Industry Guideline on REACH published

Version 4 of the Automotive Industry Guideline on REACH (AIG) has been published by the Automotive Task Force on REACH (TF-REACH) on 30.05.2018.

TF-REACH comprises representatives of all the major vehicle manufacturers and the automotive supply chain.
The TF recommends a common schedule and external communication strategy which will harmonise the sector’s response to REACH and avoid duplication and confusion by taking into consideration the automotive industry’s specific criteria and tools. The TFs approach and recommendations are outlined in the Automotive Industry Guideline (AIG) on REACH.

Version 4 of the AIG builds on the comprehensive automotive industry recommendations on numerous aspects of the REACH Regulation in the previous version 3.1, but includes significant changes to the following chapters:

- Glossary of terms; Notification of Candidate List substances in articles; Communication requirements for Candidate List substances in articles; Authorisation procedure.

New annexes are also added as follows:

- REACH Substance Scrutiny – From PACT Onwards; REACH Annex XVII Impact Evaluation List; Practical Application of the O5A Principle for CL Substances in Articles; Sustainable Substitution Criteria; History of amendments to REACH Regulation; List of changes to AIG.

The AIG is or will be translated into Chinese, French, Japanese and Korean, to assist the global automotive supply chain in understanding their REACH obligations while also providing useful recommendations.

The European REACH Regulation 1907/2006 came into force on 1 June 2007 and affects all industries. The Regulation requires immediate and ongoing action from vehicle manufacturers and suppliers. Under REACH, substances manufactured or imported on their own or in mixtures, as well as substances intended to be released from articles, need to be registered according to the REACH timeline once a certain annual tonnage threshold is exceeded. Additionally, Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs) may require authorisation or may be restricted. SVHCs listed on the Candidate List need to be identified in articles and communicated throughout the supply chain and to the consumer if certain criteria are met. Companies that do not comply with REACH have no market, so continued REACH compliance is crucial to maintain business continuity for any company doing business, or having customers or suppliers doing business, in the European Economic Area (EEA).

For more information and to download version 4 of the AIG free of charge, see www.acea.be/reach

Issued by the automotive industry associations listed above and in Annex A of the AIG.

3. Enhancements with IMDS Release 12.0

Based on the requirements collected from the supplier representatives of AIAG, CLEPA, JAPIA and the IMDS automobile manufacturers, the scope of IMDS Release 12.0 has been defined. Several presentations to the stakeholders on the enhanced functionalities were held in June 2018.

Currently, DXC is finalizing the implementation and confirming final open issues with the IMDS Steering Committee representatives. According to the current planning, IMDS Release 12.0 will go productive during April 2019. The final date will be still communicated. In addition, for IMDS-AI licensees the preliminary specification will be distributed by the end of October 2018.
1. IMDS Regulation Wizard Enhancements

a   Intelligent Substance-Material Management for BPR
Intelligent Biocide Flagging - Incorporate extra checks when adding substances to Material MDSs. To ensure that a substance is used in a material class that is eligible for BPR flagging, an internal processing matrix is added which maps Material classifications to Product Types and respective biocide updates, which can only be requested and/or provided as specified in the matrix.

b   Regulation Wizard
• Search Panel refinement: Improve refinement of search results; Reduce impact on system performance while providing more meaningful results; Allow users to find more value in using the regulation wizard.
• Clearer Text Labels - Material level: Replace “EEA produced/imported” and “EEA produced” with “EEA produced”
• Semi/Component level: Replace “Produced in EEA or imported into EEA?” with “Produced in / imported into EEA?” and add question mark icon. The tooltip will be updated to: “This question is about whether a product is eligible for REACH or not. Only if a product is produced in the EEA or imported into the EEA, the answer should be ‘Yes’ ”.
• Regulatory Information (RI) Details & Results: Add Part Number column, add “Product Type” filter, change “Biocidal property desired in finished article/product?” column name and add new download report option for “Combined Download”.

c   New MDS version containing no regulatory substances
• Regulation Wizard: MDSs no longer containing regulatory relevant substances are ineligible.
• Regulation Wizard will auto-release “clean” regulatory information for latest MDS versions that do not contain relevant substances.
• The automated release of the clean version resolves all open requests for updates and will also mark the regulatory information as “RI complete”.

2. Other Enhancements

d   Spare Parts and related Application Code check changes
(Semi)Component MDSs can be declared as “Legacy Spare Part” for recipient specific. MDSs can be sent or proposed with No invalid Application code errors for “Legacy Spare Parts”.

e   Enhance Warnings Inbox Checks
• The Rule 3.2.2.A check will now accept only the most recently accepted combination.
• The Rule 3.2.2.A check violation result will display for the sender and the recipient.

f   Remove German Material Names
Remove support for entry of material name, trade name and remarks in German. Henceforth, all data entry must exclusively use English. MDSs already released will keep their German entries.

g   Update Recyclates
The default is removed for the existing question “Does the material contain recyclate?” and a range limit is added for the recyclate upper and lower range percentage values.
4. GDPR in IMDS - Best Practices

As you may be aware, the European Union passed a regulation on data protection that has been in force since 25th May 2018. As IMDS is served from Europe and we have European users, we are also bound to follow the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Part of the Regulation is that we are no longer allowed to share user data without the consent of the user. Due to this fact, IMDS Users and IMDS Contact Persons have to actively approve that their data may be published to other IMDS Users. IMDS Users and Contact Persons are two separate entities in IMDS: there is no link between user data and contact person data. In IMDS, two separate processes were introduced: the users confirm the use of their personal data in IMDS, contact persons will have to do this via an email process.

Due to the deactivation of contact persons, you might now have inactive contacts for legacy data. You might also no longer see who rejected your MDS. In both cases, you no longer know how to contact your business partner for questions. Therefore, we encourage all users to allow the use of their data for rejections. If you - for privacy reasons - do not want to have this data displayed, please leave contact information in your rejection reason, so that your supplier can contact your company for questions. Several companies use the rejection reason to name a generic mailbox for questions on rejections and have a team monitoring this mailbox. For contact persons, we recommend using a generic mailbox. Several companies are already acting this way, ensuring that users cannot select an incorrect contact and questions can be correctly addressed. For legacy contacts, you can change the contact data and re-activate them. By doing so, your legacy MDSs will automatically get an active contact person again and your customers will know how to contact you for questions on the MDS. 

Please also consult our FAQ on this topic.

5. Users’ Echo - e-mails sent to IMDS

If I remember correctly, there was a questionnaire in IMDS at the beginning of the year. Although I did not participate, I would be very interested in the results. Is it possible to get informed about the results? I did not find anything on the IMDS Information pages. Thanks.

Dear IMDS User,

Thanks for addressing this topic. Indeed, there was a questionnaire online in IMDS in February 2018. In the pictures, a first graph is shown on the perception of IMDS as a standard tool for material compliance reporting. The questionnaire was online for four weeks, 15th January 2018 - 12th February 2018. There were 12,443 responses overall, all results in the analysis are shown in percentages.

If you are interested in more results, please find here a copy of the document for download.

Best regards, Your IMDS Newsletter Team
Your participation

Please help us with your feedback. If you would like to contribute to this Newsletter with articles and comments concerning the IMDS and environmental issues in your company, please contact us by email. For suggestions, further information and questions, please contact imds-newsletter@dxc.com

6. Who to contact at the automobile manufacturers?

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IMDS Service Center support

Chinese Service Center – imds-eds-helpdesk-china@dxc.com
Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. BST (GMT+8) at +86 27 87431668

English-speaking European Service Center – imds-helpdesk-english@dxc.com
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (GMT+1) at +36 1 778 9821

French-, German- and Portuguese-speaking European Service Center – imds-helpdesk-emea@dxc.com
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (GMT+1) at +33 1 57 32 4856

Japanese Service Center – jpimdsedhelpdesk@dxc.com
Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. JST (GMT+9) at +81 3 4530 9270

Korean Service Center – imdsk-helpdesk@dxc.com
Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Seoul (GMT+9) at +82 2 6138 3661

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