



## **Watson & Watson Health and Safety Consultants Ltd**

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#### **URGENT BULLETIN - NEW UK REACH RULES FOR DIISOCYANATES PRODUCTS**



### **REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation, and Restriction of Chemicals)**

#### **What is UK REACH?**

**Following the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (EU), the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulation has extended into UK law, under a new domestic regime known as UK REACH.**

**The regulation came into force on 1 January 2021, following the Brexit transition period and is essentially a replication of EU REACH but is only applicable to the countries of Great Britain (GB), with some changes to make it suitable for its market. Due to the Northern Ireland Protocol, Northern Ireland remains within the jurisdiction of EU REACH.**

## **New UK REACH Rules - for Diisocyanates**

**The UK Government has put in force a new restriction on the use of products containing more than 0.1% of monomeric diisocyanates.**

These new rules will also apply to products such as polyurethane adhesives, sealants and foams used in industrial production and construction work.

Diisocyanates are used in coatings, adhesives and sealants and are a family of chemical building blocks mainly used to make polyurethane (PU) products. This restriction targets targeting respiratory and dermal sensitisation potentially caused by diisocyanates.

**Beginning on August 24, 2023, all professionals and industrial users must complete a training course before using such products. DIY users are not affected by this law.**

### **Training requirements:**

As of 24 August 2023, training is required for all professional and industrial users of products with a total monomeric diisocyanate concentration of (greater than) > 0.1%.

### **This means that -**

- **Suppliers of diisocyanates** shall ensure that the recipient is provided with training materials and courses.
- **Employers are responsible for** ensuring that their employees have successfully completed the training on the safe use of diisocyanates prior to the use of the substance or mixture. The training shall take into consideration the specificity of the products supplied, including composition, packaging and application

conditions. The training must be repeated every five years.

**Access to training materials:**

- Has your Supplier contacted you regarding the requirement to train your employees?
  - If so, assesses your usage and their recommendations, then as applicable follow their Training link as provided.
- If your Supplier has not contacted you or provided you with a training link then -
  - Check that the products you use do not contain more than > 0.1% monomeric diisocyanate, this can be done by referencing the Products Safety Data Sheet.
  - If the Products you use contain more than > 0.1% monomeric diisocyanate, contact your Supplier and enquire about the their provision of training materials.

**On completion of training:**

- Keep Records of your Employees Training Certification.
- Add to your Company's Training Matrix - to facilitate tracking of refresher training.
- Ensure that you carry out refresher training every 5 years.

**Please Act NOW as the Clock is Ticking**

**Or**

**Find Alternative Products which do not require  
Monomeric Diisocyanate Training.**

## HSE - Construction Hazardous Substances: Isocyanates

Reference this link for Guidance on how to control -

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/hazardous-substances/isocyanates.htm>

*Click on the REACH Logo below to access the HSE's UK REACH webpage.*



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