



European Commission

REACH

Specificities for Small & Medium Enterprises

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European Commission, DG ENTR, REACH Unit

Petteri Mäkelä

Outline

REACH and SMEs

- ❖ Brief History: legislative process & SMEs
- ❖ Preparations for REACH: SME participation

REACH Regulation

- ❖ Objectives & scope
- ❖ Provisions relevant for SMEs
- ❖ Specificities for SMEs
- ❖ Aspects which benefit SMEs

Advice for SMEs

Brief History

Legislative Process & SMEs

2001 White Paper on “Strategy for a future Chemicals Policy”

- ❖ Rational, objectives & new provision

2003 Commission adopts REACH proposal

- ❖ SME input during Internet Consultation & participation to Impact Assessment contributed to a more streamlined & cost effective proposal

2003 – 2006 Co-decision process in Council & Parliament

- ❖ SME organisations actively contributed to amendments

Brief History

Preparations for REACH & SMEs

2004 – 2007 REACH Implementation Projects

- ❖ SME organisations actively participated to testing

SPORT project in 2004/5

- ❖ SME organisations actively contributed to guidance preparation

e.g. Exposure Scenarios

Downstream User Obligations

- ❖ SME companies tested draft guidance

e.g. Overall guidance

REACH Objectives & Scope

One single and coherent system

for new and existing chemicals

Focus on priorities:

- ❖ high volumes (as a proxy for potential risk)
- ❖ greatest concern (substances & uses with highest risk)

Shift of responsibilities

from public authorities towards industry

Improved safety in chemical management through out the supply chain

for human health and the environment

⇒ *REACH applies to the manufacturing, importing, placing on the market and use of substances*

Provisions Relevant for SMEs

Manufacturers & EU importers of chemicals

- ❖ substances & preparations
- ❖ Registration of substances ≥ 1 tonne per year
- ❖ Authorisation & restrictions

Downstream Users

- ❖ Compliance with safety measures & possibility for further actions
- ❖ Authorisation & restrictions

Manufacturers & importers of articles

- ❖ Registration or reporting requirements may apply
- ❖ Information provision
- ❖ Authorisation & restrictions

Specificities for SMEs

Non-discrimination: Special attention has been paid to potential impact on SMEs

❖ This has led to:

- some SME specific provisions in the Regulation
- and some that are beneficial to all low volume producers

Specificities for SMEs:

Easy Access to Information

- ◆ Information on REACH implementation must be easily accessible, in particular for SMEs
 - ❖ Guidance
 - ❖ IT Tools
 - ❖ Information on the authorisation or restrictions processes is public
 - ❖ Helpdesks

REACH Guidance

Objective

- ❖ Allow users to quickly understand:
 - Their roles
 - Their obligations under REACH
- ❖ Be:
 - Exhaustive
 - Concise

IT tools

- ❖ Web based “Navigator” tool to assist in finding obligations
- ❖ REACH processes IT supported

Available progressively from at entry 1 June 2007

Specificities for SMEs

Helpdesks

- ❖ To help companies to comply with the requirements of REACH

SMEs can contact:

◆ Member States helpdesks for

- ❖ General advice on obligations under REACH
They provide assistance in local language/s

SMEs who register can contact also:

◆ Agency helpdesk for

- ❖ Advice on registration process & dossiers
- ❖ IUCLID5 related questions

Specificities for SMEs

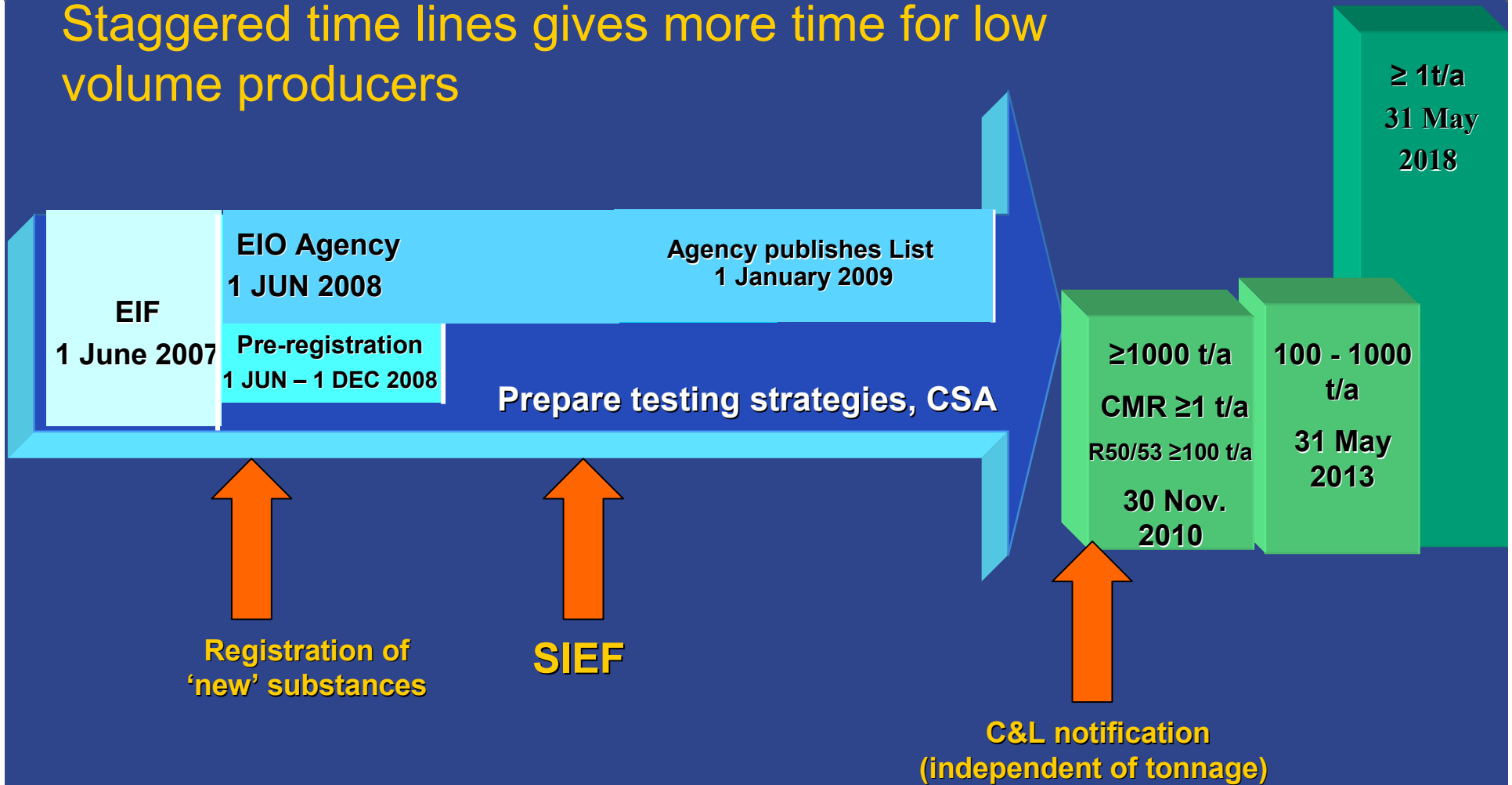
Registration Fees

- ◆ **Reduced fee** for SMEs in all cases
 - ❖ Amount of fees will take account of the tonnage range of the substance

Fee regulation will be published by 1 June 2008

Features that benefit SMEs

Staggered time lines gives more time for low volume producers



Features that benefit SMEs

Low Volume

- ◆ Later registration dates
- ◆ Limited data set
- ◆ Limited Chemical Safety Assessment
- ◆ New tox & ecotox information required only for priority substances between 1 and 10 tonnes.

Features that benefit SMEs

Data

- ◆ Joint submission & data sharing on substances will:
 - ❖ Reduce testing by allowing access to existing data
 - ❖ Increase the efficiency of the registration system

Advice for SME

- ◆ **Prepare your organisation**
- ◆ **Participate to REACH activities organised by your industry associations**
- ◆ **Interact with your suppliers**
- ◆ **For guidance & tools consult Agency website**

www.echa.europa.eu