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Bel Position Statement Regarding EC REACH Regulation

REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization & Restriction of Chemicals) was adopted by the European Community (EC) and came into effect on June 1, 2007. It enforces comprehensive regulatory reforms surrounding the manufacture, marketing, import, and use of chemical substances in the European Union (EU). The primary objective of these regulations is to ensure that chemical substances used within the EU are properly assessed for their safety to both humans and the environment. Where appropriate, the use of some substances may be restricted or prohibited.

All chemicals manufactured or imported into Europe in quantities greater than one ton per year are affected by REACH regulations which will be phased-in over time to allow industries time to properly prepare for compliance.

The first step in REACH regulation requires that all manufacturers and importers pre-register their information into a central database run by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). This must be accomplished before December 1, 2008. According to the legislation, if a chemical hasn't been pre-registered by this date, it can no longer be sold within the EU.

The next stage is the formal registration process which requires that manufacturers and importers supply detailed technical information for their chemicals and any related hazards. This registration will be phased-in over a period of years based on volumes manufactured and, in some cases, the hazard level related to the chemical.

ECHA is creating a formal list of chemicals considered especially harmful called Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC). REACH requires that any EU supplier of SVHC-designated articles in concentration above 0.1% by weight must provide the recipient with sufficient information to allow for safe use including, at a minimum, the name of the SVHC.

As part of the ECHA registration process, manufacturers or importers will need to include downstream uses which requires that information pass up and down the chemical supply chain to ensure that all relevant uses are registered for the various substances.

Bel's policy, in lock-step with our customers, is to ensure total compliance with all EC-related environmental legislation, including REACH. We will be continually monitoring the state of REACH regulations, while communicating with our suppliers in order to verify that they

- 1) understand their role as it pertains to REACH, and
- 2) pre-register all required materials.

This will be an ongoing process requiring several links in our supply chain, and is therefore expected to take several months to complete.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph F. Berry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Joseph F. Berry
Engineering Manager
Bel Fuse Inc.