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## **SPRING and Chemical Industry Council help Singapore companies meet EU REACH regulation**

1. The European Union's REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals) regulation, which came into effect on 1 June 2007, will have a significant impact on Singapore's chemical and other industries such as plastics, rubber, electrical and electronics and pharmaceuticals. REACH requires European manufacturers to register and evaluate the potential risks of chemicals put on the EU market. The regulation applies to the making and import of chemicals in quantities of one tonne and above. However, the impact is even more far reaching as it also affects all products which contain chemical substances.

2. Geographically, the impact of REACH is far reaching and extends beyond Europe as it will also affect supply chains and exporters outside the EU. In Singapore, some 500 companies in the chemical manufacturing and related industries will be affected. Last year, Singapore exported about \$11 billion of chemicals and related products to the EU. This made up 23% of our exports to the EU in 2007. Europe's chemical industry is estimated at some \$36 billion.

3. The responsibility for REACH compliance lies with importers in the EU. They also must ensure communication of the requirements throughout their supply chain. Singapore exporters of chemicals to the EU will have to register through their importers. (Please see the Fact Sheet on REACH for more details.)

4. SPRING Singapore conducted a study last year on the local chemical and affected industries which export to the EU. The aim was to assess the potential impact of REACH on Singapore industries. These were the key findings:

- There is a lack of sufficient awareness and understanding of the legislation among Singapore companies. Many of the companies surveyed were not adequately prepared for REACH yet.
- While the chemicals industry will be most affected, those that use chemicals extensively such as the plastics, rubber, electrical/electronics and pharmaceuticals industries will also be affected as several of them are highly reliant on their revenue stream from the EU market.
- Many Singapore companies may not fully appreciate the full implications and costs of compliance to REACH. These could include direct and indirect costs, particularly where it involves substitution of restricted chemicals.

5. SPRING Singapore and the Singapore Chemicals Industry Council (SCIC) are collaborating to accelerate industry's awareness, understanding and capacity building to cope with the challenges faced in complying with REACH. For a start, SPRING's Export Technical Assistance Centre (ETAC) and SCIC, together with the Singapore Manufacturers' Federation (SMA) are rolling out a series of technical workshops to provide Singapore exporters with greater in-depth information and advice on the REACH processes and REACH compliance strategies. The first of the four workshops was held earlier this month. Some 250 enterprises are expected to attend the workshop series.

6. Today, SPRING and SCIC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the SCIC Annual Dinner and Responsible Care Awards 2007 Presentation. Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Mr S Iswaran, witnessed the signing. He had announced the SPRING-SCIC collaboration when he opened Quality and Standards 2007 last November.

7. "The MOU formalises SPRING's collaboration with SCIC on a range of outreach activities to help local enterprises – especially our SMEs in the chemical and related industries – to understand REACH and comply with the regulation in order to remain competitive in the global market," said Mr Loh Khum Yean, Chief Executive, SPRING Singapore.

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8. “SCIC is very appreciative of the support rendered by SPRING in helping our members in the chemical industry build capacity for the EU REACH regulation. Through the SPRING/IE Singapore Local Industry Upgrading Programme (LIUP), SCIC has been actively promoting capacity building training programmes for the Globally Harmonised System on Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and encouraging more SMEs to advocate the Responsible Care programme. The objective of this industry led programme is to help our SME members improve their Environment, Health, Safety and Security performance,” said Dr A Chockalingam, Chairman of SCIC. “GHS and REACH impact industries at large and the partnership with SPRING is crucial to reach out to these impacted companies so as to maintain our business and trading interests.”

9. Companies who wish to find out more about REACH and how to comply can contact ETAC on tel: 6279 3807 during office hours or e-mail [etac@spring.gov.sg](mailto:etac@spring.gov.sg).

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**About SPRING Singapore**

As the national standards and conformance body, SPRING Singapore helps to lower technical barriers to trade, provide quality assurance for products and services and promote industry use of Singapore and international standards.

SPRING Singapore is also the agency for enterprise development which aims to enhance the competitiveness of enterprises. We help to nurture a pro-business environment, facilitate the growth of industries and enhance innovation and enterprise capabilities of small and medium enterprises for better access to markets and business opportunities.

Please visit [www.spring.gov.sg](http://www.spring.gov.sg) for more information and news about SPRING Singapore.

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