

REACH, CLP and BOELV: What you need to know and its impact on you

Let's define these acronyms – REACH, CLP and BOELV.

REACH: Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals is a European Union regulation dating from 18 December 2006. REACH addresses the production and use of chemical substances, and their potential impacts on both human health and the environment

CLP: The CLP Regulation is a European Union regulation from 2008, which aligns the European Union system of classification, labelling and packaging of chemical substances and mixtures to the Globally Harmonised System

BOELV: Binding Occupational Exposure Limit Values are mainly set for non-threshold carcinogens. BOELV must be implemented, at a minimum, in the work environment legislation of the EU member states.

REACH

REACH is the main chemical regulation within the EU. It applies to the manufacture and import of all chemical substances that are placed on the market in quantities greater than 1 Tonne per year. It came into force on 1 June 2007 and replaced several European directives and regulations with a single system. Further information on REACH can be found on the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) website http://echa.europa.eu/home_en.asp.

REACH places greater responsibility on industry to identify and manage the risks posed by chemicals to human health and the environment.

- Morgan Advanced Materials has registered the low bio-persistent (LBP) Alkaline-Earth-Silicate (AES) Superwool® fibres we manufacture and import into the EU as substances.
- Morgan Advanced Materials is committed to meeting our legal obligations under REACH, as a manufacturer, supplier and downstream user.
- All products imported or manufactured within the EU by Morgan Advanced Materials that meet the criteria for registration under REACH have been registered.
- Morgan Advanced Materials is also continuing to work closely with suppliers to ensure that the REACH process continues as smoothly as possible.
- Morgan Advanced Material fibre products, both RCF and low bio-persistent AES were registered for REACH in 2010 and now have REACH compliant Safety Data Sheets (SDS).
- RCF was listed on the Candidate List for Authorisation as a Substance of Very High Concern in 2010, as a result of this suppliers of articles containing RCF have additional obligations to communicate information on safe use down the supply chain.

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Classification, Labelling and Packaging

In 1997 the European Commission added man-made vitreous (silicate) fibres (MMVFs) to the list of dangerous (hazardous) substances under the European Union Directive 67/548/EEC¹. In 2008 a new regulation - classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008) came into force with the main aim of bringing EU CLP (Classification, Labelling of Packaging) into line with the Global Harmonised System (GHS).

The classification framework for MMVFs is complicated, but may be summarised for the purposes of this manual as:

- Some MMVFs are classified as category 1b carcinogens (substances which should be regarded as if they are carcinogenic to man).
- Most commercial MMVFs are classified, by default, as category 2 carcinogens (substances which cause concern for man owing to possible carcinogenic effects). However, these MMVFs may be exonerated from category 2 carcinogen classification if they meet certain criteria in the Regulation, specified under Note Q².

For high temperature insulation wools, this regulation classified Refractory Ceramic Fibres (RCFs) as category 1b carcinogens and exonerates all low bio-persistent Superwool[®] range of products from any carcinogen and skin irritancy classification.

Morgan Advanced Materials, as part of our responsible business programme label all our RCF containing products globally with GHS hazard labelling.

The consequences of carcinogen hazard classification in the European Union

Classification of RCFs in the European Union as category 1b carcinogens triggers several downstream regulations both across the European Union and in individual Member States. These require measures to be taken by Member States to restrict the use of and control exposures to RCFs in order to minimise possible adverse impacts to human health and the environment.

The measures include:

- Prohibiting manufacturers and suppliers from placing RCFs on the market for use by the general public (Directive 76/769/EEC).
- Requiring employers using RCFs to seek a substitute which would present a lower risk to the health of workers, or where not technically feasible to contain the RCFs and implement measures to reduce occupational exposure to the lowest technically achievable (Directive 2004/37/EC).

Handling and disposing of RCF hazardous waste from manufacture and use by a licensed waste contractor and in an appropriately licensed special waste landfill (Directives 91/689/EEC and 1999/31/EC). These downstream consequences have applied to the marketing and use of RCFs since their classification as category 2 (CLP 1b) carcinogens, and have resulted in increased costs of compliance for manufacturers, suppliers and users of RCF.

They do not apply to the low bio-persistent Superwool range of products³.

Additionally, in 2018 the European Commission updated the Carcinogen and Mutagens Directive (2004/37/EC) to include Binding Occupational Exposure Limit Values for a number of substances including RCF. This limit value entered into force in January 2020 and sets a maximum level of 0.3f/ml for workplace RCF dust exposure.

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Why low bio-persistent Superwool products?

For many years both the EU and USA high temperature insulation wool industry associations, ECFIA (www.ecfia.eu) and HTIW Coalition (www.htiwcoalition.org) have Product Stewardship Programmes, which includes:

- Human effects research: such as sponsoring human health surveys and research on the biological effects of fibres.
- Exposure assessment: study of workplace controls and workplace monitoring.
- These aspects of product stewardship in Europe are known as the CARE programme for Controlled And Reduced Exposure.
- Product research: the search for new materials which might release less dust or meet the requirements for exoneration from carcinogenic classification.
- Special studies: research on such subjects as waste, production of communication bulletins on the above efforts, material safety data sheets, safe handling guidelines etc.

The development and marketing of low bio-persistent AES Superwool® Plus fibre is a result of Morgan Advanced Materials commitment to these Product Stewardship Programmes.

Thermal Ceramics world leading Superwool range offer a diverse strongly branded products that combine quality with consistency and reliability. Thermal Ceramics leads the way in bringing technical solutions to all problems of thermal management and fire protection.

1 As amended by European Commission Directive 97/69/EC

2 See Notas Q and R of CLP Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008

3 Superwool meets the criteria for exoneration from carcinogen classification in Nota Q of CLP Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008

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Thermal Ceramics is a business of Morgan Advanced Materials