

Karlstad 2008-09-19

Dear Customers

The European Regulation of 18th December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) entered into force on 1st June 2007.

This Regulation rules the use and placing on the European market of certain chemical substances, on their own or contained in preparations or articles, with the aim of identifying their hazardous properties and recommending appropriate risk management measures all along the supply chain.

Accordingly, any Legal or physical person established in Europe who manufactures or imports a substance covered by REACH, either on its own or in a preparation or article, in quantities of one tonne or more per year, shall submit a registration file to the European Chemical Agency.

Before December, 1st 2008, the registrants shall provide physicochemical, toxicological and eco-toxicological information, according to the tonnage manufactured or imported, and shall integrate this information within a Chemical Safety Report for all substances subject to registration in quantities of 10 tonnes or more per year.

In order to benefit from a longer delay for registration, each importer or manufacturer concerned by REACH can pre-register the substance(s) imported or manufactured, between June, 1st 2008 and November, 30th 2008.

Companies from ArcelorMittal Group, like all European companies manufacturing, importing or using chemical substances covered by REACH, are concerned by this new European Regulation and will use their best efforts to comply with it, without compromising their commercial relationships with customers.

To achieve this aim:

\*We are making an inventory of the substances covered by REACH, gathering related data, and more generally preparing the work to be done to fulfil both registrant and downstream user obligations.

\*In order to benefit from a longer delay for a possible registration, we are preparing pre-registration files for certain substances we produce (for instance some iron and steel by products) or import (for instance ferro alloys and other raw materials).

\*We are carrying out a purchasing risk management, in order to make sure that the consequences of REACH for our upstream supply chain will remain under control.

When it comes to the goods supplied to your company, we do not anticipate as of today any significant change induced by REACH on them; should such a change occur, we would of course keep you informed of it as soon as possible.

Besides, their final status is still under discussion with the European Authorities; they will probably be considered as articles and we hope to be able to confirm it soon.

Depending on the outcome of this discussion, we may have to turn to you in the future to get information related to specific uses of the products that we supply to you. Whatever will be the final scenario, we will of course remain at your disposal for questions about the safe use of our products and will take care to forward the uses you declare to us to the relevant REACH actors.

For practical reasons, we would like at last to draw your attention on the tremendous simplification potential resulting from the exclusive use of English in any further mailing related to REACH, whatever addressee's nationality, for standardization purposes.

Until then, we remain at your disposal for any additional information you may require.

Contact person REACH

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Best regards.



Matts Persson

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) n° 1907/2006 of The European Parliament and of The Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC, published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2007, L.136/3.

ArcelorMittal BE Group SSC AB is a joint venture between  
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