

Dear customer,

With this statement we would like to inform you about the position of Balta in respect of the REACH-regulation (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and restriction of Chemicals). Today we are in compliance with REACH. We will continue our efforts in monitoring further developments in the REACH-regulation as well as in assuring further compliance in this matter.

Balta Group is a downstream user of "substances" and "preparations" (dyestuffs/ chemicals) and a textile (=article) manufacturer. In order to perform our duty we are taking the following actions:

As a downstream user of dyestuffs and chemicals, we are not responsible for the (pre)registration of these chemicals, nor for the risk assessment. However, we have to make sure that our suppliers know the applications we use their products for (identified uses). Therefore we are in close co-operation with our suppliers to monitor their progress and measures for REACH compliancy. An inventory of our dyestuffs/chemicals/sub articles, enables us to react rapidly to any change in the supply chain. Each newly bought dyestuffs/chemicals/sub articles is examined on the basis of the REACH regulation. During this process, the customer's specific requirements and label specific requirements are included.

Our textile products are "articles" and are therefore not submitted to any registration obligations, except for the intended released chemical substances (not included in our article range). Secondly, the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) publish, on a regular basis (+/- every 6 months), a list of substances of very high concern (SVHC) on the Candidate list ([http://echa.europa.eu/chem\\_data/candidate\\_list\\_table\\_en.asp](http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data/candidate_list_table_en.asp)). All required communications are uniquely linked to this official list. Whenever one of our articles (textile products) contains such a substance, above 0.1 % (w/w), we will communicate about these chemicals to our clients. Besides, Balta will start an active search for an alternative solution for the used substances on the Candidate list. Additionally, our textile products comply to all the restrictions, as mentioned in annex XVII of the Reach-regulation. Based upon our own and our (European and non-European) suppliers' current knowledge, we can inform that we do not use any of these substances. Finally, we like to refer to the GuT-ProdIs labelling of our textile products, based on much stricter acceptance criteria.

We are convinced that we have informed you of our REACH approach. We will continue to inform you on the further progress towards full REACH compliancy.

We also trust that our statement is an answer to all your enquiries, questionnaires and concerns related to REACH within the framework of our collaboration. However, we are at your disposal for any additional questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wim Denecker", with a horizontal line underneath.

Wim Denecker  
REACH-coordinator Balta Group