



Position Paper on Pectins under the REACH Regulation

The European Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals Regulation, commonly referred to as REACH¹, places an obligation on European manufacturers and importers of substances to register their substances in order to continue production in or import into the European market.

REACH registration does not apply to the extent that a substance is used in food or feedingstuffs or in medicinal products for human or veterinary use.

Pectins

Pectins are carbohydrates extracted from selected natural vegetable raw materials mainly citrus fruit peel and apple pomace.

Pectins are natural polymers or chemically modified natural polymers. The substances are polymerized in nature and are subsequently extracted from the vegetable raw materials at the manufacturing plants.

The vegetable raw materials used in the manufacturing process, typically citrus fruit peel and apple pomace, are exempt from registration as naturally occurring substances.

Natural polymers and chemically modified natural polymers complying with the polymer criteria of REACH are exempt from registration. Monomer substance(s) or other substance(s) in the form of monomeric units and chemically bound substance(s) originating from the natural polymer can for practical reasons be treated as “non-isolated intermediates” and do not have to be registered. The substances used to chemically modify the natural polymer and which are chemically bound within the final polymer need to be registered according to REACH.

The above interpretation has been endorsed by the REACH Competent Authorities on 17 October 2008 and will be published in the next updated version of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on ECHA’s webpage².

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¹ Regulation 2006/1907/EC

² http://echa.europa.eu/reach/faq_en.asp