

K-REACH ACT NOW!



K-REACH - Enhanced safety for all

Newsletter-5 | May 2021

Third segment

Major Issues in the K-REACH Act

The K-REACH Act raises controversy over the corporate burdens due to the registration of small or new chemical substances. The industry is concerned about the possibility of infringement of trade secrets, and the burden of enormous registration costs, upon the manufacturers. The government (Ministry of Environment) has taken measures to minimize this concern. Many of the 47 tests and evaluation items required for chemical substance registration are known to be a challenge for the local Contract Research Labs in Korea⁴. The concerns regarding the slow-down of the Korean economy are being expressed on account of delays in the process as well as economic burden on the registrants. The government (Ministry of Environment) is anticipating the capacity and capability expansion of domestic GLP testing labs, as demand for chemical testing services. It is planned to foster domestic testing infrastructure.

Conclusion

Chemical substances have become an inseparable part of day-to-day life and have become essential goods of the modern society. At the same time, risk factors such as damage to health and environment from the potentially harmful substances cannot be ruled out. As a countermeasure, this Act on Chemical Substance Registration and Evaluation has been enacted and revised to protect the public's health and environment from unknown chemical substance risks by reinforcing preventive management in Korea in line with the international expansion of the preventive management system. Accordingly, the government is implementing various support measures for the industry, such as inducing joint registration through a council, and generating test reports led by the government and supplying them at low prices.

It is essential that top quality GLP reports are provided to the K-REACH administration to ensure smooth registration and evaluation of chemical substances. Such reports should ideally be generated by the competent, GLP labs with extended experience and expertise of the well-established and reputed global CROs. Moreover, for the Korean Chemical Manufacturer, if it proposes to register its chemical substance overseas, the quality and acceptability of the test reports would necessitate generation from reputed Global GLP CROs, which are capable of supporting most of their registration needs as a "one-stop-shop" CRO, which could economically undertake such studies, to ensure no adverse impact on the expense budgets of the manufacturer. It is possible to effectively identify the study needs, and generate top quality GLP reports, which enable smooth management of the hazard and risk assessment of the chemical substances, well in advance. Such a strategy facilitates the industrial competitiveness. This strategy would accidents caused by chemical substances cause enormous economic losses to companies, and environmental regulations in each country are also being used as a protective trade device between countries. Accordingly, companies can increase corporate value by securing long-term competitiveness through environmental management through compliance with the K-REACH Act.



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