

## **REACH – Briefing for Valpak Members 11.11.08**

### **Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances**

Entered into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007

#### **What is REACH?**

The REACH Directive applies to companies that import substances, preparations or articles into the EU or manufacture them within the EU. It also applies to companies that are downstream users of substances or preparations in their professional activities.

- Substances: - a chemical element and its compounds, this includes both natural and man made.
- Preparations : - a mixture of chemicals (substances) where a chemical reaction has not taken place
- Articles: - the shape, surface or design determines its function to a greater degree than does its chemical composition. A telephone is an example of an article.

#### **How REACH Might Affect You**

- If you import or manufacture substances and preparations you could be required to register
- If you import or manufacture an article that contains a dangerous chemical you could be required to make a notification
- If you import, manufacture , or use dangerous substances and preparations you could be required to apply for authorisation
- If you use substances or preparations in your professional activities you must ensure that these uses are to be included in the registration of that substance

If you carry out one or more of the activities above then please note that REACH also requires certain information to be provided to the recipients of substances, preparations and articles.

**Registration should be made by the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 via the ECHA website:**  
[http://echa.europa.eu/reachit/portal\\_en.asp](http://echa.europa.eu/reachit/portal_en.asp)

#### **Further information:**

Valpak is not able to provide detailed legal advice on compliance with REACH.

- A range of guidance documents are available from the Health and Safety Executive website including guidance on pre-registration and full registration - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/reach/index.htm>
- Visit the REACH Navigator, an online tool for identifying obligations - [http://reach.jrc.it/navigator\\_en.htm](http://reach.jrc.it/navigator_en.htm)
- Specific queries can be sent directly to the Health and Safety Executive at: [UKREACHCA@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:UKREACHCA@hse.gsi.gov.uk)