

Executive summary

Annual report of the Belgian nanoregister, trade year 2016

The Royal Decree concerning the placing on the market of substances produced in nanoparticulate state was signed on May 27th, 2014 and published on September 24th, 2014. According to this Royal Decree, the deadline for registration of substances manufactured in nanoparticulate state was January 1st, 2016. The registration software was launched on September 15th, 2015.

This report gives the details of the first reference period, from September 15th, 2015 to April 1st, 2017 (which was the deadline to update the submitted registrations) and concerns the substances manufactured in nanoparticulate state which were placed on the market as substances during 2016.

In this period, 115 accounts were created, of which 98 are considered as 'active' because they created one or more registrations. About 1/3 of the active accounts are Belgian. The majority of the non-Belgian accounts are situated in the European economic area.

About 2/3 of the active accounts placed the nanosubstance(s) on the Belgian market themselves and were therefore obliged to register. The other 1/3 of the active accounts have registered on a voluntary basis.

In total 475 registrations were submitted. Half of the registrants submitted less than 2 registrations.

The importers submitted 56% of the number of registrations, the distributors 22% and the manufacturers 11%. The remaining part was submitted either by formulators or by 'others'. About 77% of the registrations were updated before the deadline of April 1st, 2017.

The NACE(BEL)-codes are used to specify the economic activities. Code 20 - Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products - has been most often used to describe the economic activity at the level of the company. At the level of the registrations, code 20160 - Manufacture of plastics in primary forms - has been most frequently used.

The European descriptor system is used to specify the uses of the substances in nanoparticulate state. The SU (Sectors of Use) category has been mentioned most often (45% of the registered uses), with SU3 - Industrial uses: Uses of substances as such or in preparations at industrial sites - was selected most in the submitted registrations.

According to the registered data for 2016, 57 550 tons of substances in nanoparticulate state were imported, 16 947 tons were manufactured and 13 815 tons were distributed.

The substances registered in quantities more than 1 000 tons are amorphous silica, calcium carbonate, calcium carbonate treated with stearic acid, carbon black, diiron trioxide, iron hydroxide oxide yellow and silicon oxide.

About 50% of the submitted registrations reported quantities below 1 ton and would therefore be considered to be out of the scope of the REACH-regulation.

Evaluation of the submitted registrations shows that the quality of the registrations can be further improved. It also suggests the possibility that not all potential registrants are aware of the Royal Decree of May 27th, 2014 and the obligation to register.

The helpdesk received 189 questions in the above mentioned reference period. Half of the questions were answered within 2 days, 88% of the questions received a definitive answer within 7 calendar days.

The nominative list of the substances registered for 2016 is presented in the Annex to this report. Based on the chemical identification (CAS-number), about 150 different chemical substances were identified. The chemical identification makes no distinction between the possible differences in the physico-chemical properties of the nanosubstances.