

POSITION PAPER EXCLUDING SEAWEED-DERIVED HYDROCOLLOIDS FROM THE REACH REGISTRATION

The European Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals Regulation, commonly referred to as REACH (Regulation 1907/2006/EC), 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 feeding stuffs or in medicinal products for human or veterinary use.

Seaweed-derived hydrocolloids are carbohydrates obtained from different species of algae from various regions of the world. The most commonly used seaweed-derived hydrocolloids are carrageenan, processed Eucheuma seaweed (PES), alginates and agar.

Seaweed-derived hydrocolloids are natural polymers or chemically modified natural polymers. The substances are polymerized in nature and are subsequently extracted from the seaweed at the manufacturing plants. The seaweed used as raw material in the manufacturing process is 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 web site.

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