The Rotterdam Convention and the EU PIC Regulation

Jornada sobre Control Técnico al Comercio de Productos Químicos
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Background

The Rotterdam Convention

- The Rotterdam Convention on **P**rior **I**nformed **C**onsent (**PIC**) is a global treaty whose aim is mainly to protect developing countries from the unwanted import of hazardous chemicals and to facilitate information exchange
- Principle: prior informed consent is required from an importing party before export of banned or severely restricted chemicals can take place

The EU PIC Regulation

- Regulation (EU) 649/2012, applicable since 1 March 2014
- Concerns the export and import of hazardous chemicals whose use has either been banned or severely restricted within the EU
  - The EU Regulation comprises a larger list of chemicals covering the following categories:
    - Industrial chemicals (for professional and/or public use)
    - Pesticides (plant protection products and/or biocides)
- Places obligations (mainly) on companies who wish to export these chemicals to non-EU countries

PIC chemicals

The list of chemicals subject to PIC can be found here:
http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/regulations/prior-informed-consent/list-chemicals

We currently have 200 entries subject to the PIC Regulation (covering substances, e.g. benzene and group entries, e.g. dibutyltin compounds). This adds up to >1000 substances currently being subject to PIC.

Main actors

Actors under PIC and their main responsibilities [1/3]

- Companies
  - Must notify exports of PIC chemicals
  - Must report exact quantities of PIC chemicals exported/imported during the previous year
- EU Designated National Authorities (DNAs)
  - Process notifications and related tasks
  - Act as first point of contact for industry
- European Commission (DG ENV)
  - Partner DG for PIC
  - Drives the process of amending the Annexes to the PIC Regulation (~ once per year)

Actors under PIC and their main responsibilities [2/3]

- ECHA
  - Processes and sends notifications to non-EU countries
  - Develops and maintains ePIC (the IT tool used for all submissions)
  - Provides guidance and support to industry, EU-DNAs and non-EU DNAs
  - Publishes relevant information on their website
  - Compiles reports on volumes exported/imported (Art. 10), on information exchange (Art. 20), on the functioning of the regulation (Art. 22)
  - Coordinates the work of enforcement authorities

Actors under PIC and their main responsibilities [3/3]

- EU Customs
  - Verify that a given export is compliant with PIC
- National Enforcement Authorities (NEAs)
  - Verify that companies are (in general) compliant with their obligations under the PIC Regulation

- *Non-EU DNAs*
  - *Receive EU export notifications*
  - *Provide feedback and/ore requests for additional information*

PIC in Spain

(Spanish) export notifications

- The overall number of export notifications is increasing very rapidly
  - We have processed ~7700 notifications for 2016 exports so far
  - This is ~30% more than last year
- In 2016 we received 566 export notifications from Spanish companies (~7,5% of the EU total).
  - Last year we received 432 notifications from Spain which was ~8% of the EU total

The Spanish DNA

DNA Category	Contact	Phone	Fax	Email
Industrial Chemical Pesticide	Ms. Ana RODRÍGUEZ ROLDÁN Jefe de Area de Riesgos Ambientales Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente Dirección General de Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental y Medio Natural Subdirección General de Calidad del Aire y Medio Ambiente Industrial Plaza San Juan de la Cruz s/n 28071 Madrid Spain	+34 91 4535401	+34 91 4530582	Buzon-ExporImporPQP@magrama.es

ePIC

ePIC

- ePIC is the only tool to be used for any submissions/monitoring of processes related to PIC
- The latest version was released on 10 October and includes the following improvements for companies:
  - Alert in case of duplicate notifications
  - Possibility to re-submit Article 10 reports if corrections are requested by the DNA
  - Improved Special RIN functionality
  - Increased automation of certain DNA tasks (which should reduce processing times and improve the whole process)

Useful links

Where can companies find support?

- ePIC is accessible from the ECHA website: http://echa.europa.eu/support/dossier-submission-tools/epic
- The following is also available:
  - Fully comprehensive IT user manual https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/21731237/epic_usm_industry_es.pdf
  - Guidance to the Regulation https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/21784135/guidance_pic_es.pdf/2882d5b5-fc2b-45e5-b2a7-0f122b48090d
  - The ECHA Helpdesk http://echa.europa.eu/contact/helpdesk-contact-form

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