

R.E.A.C.H. (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and restriction of Chemicals)

This is a new European regulation that came into force on June 1st, 2007. A major aim is “to provide a high level of protection of human health and the environment from the use of chemicals” (1).

Whilst the registration is primarily aimed at the chemical industry and sales of individual chemical substances, its scope includes what the regulations term “preparations” and “articles”. This later term is wide ranging and can include cars, telephones – and batteries (2). However, under the section “Substances in articles” (3) the following statement effectively exempts the Power-Sonic range of VRLA batteries and other rechargeable batteries and cells: “...notification is not required...when exposure to humans and environment can be excluded during normal conditions of use, including disposal.”

Additionally, “EUROBAT”, which represents the European automotive and industrial battery industry, has produced extensive guidelines which declare the battery industry as a “downstream user having no registration obligations” (4).

The guidelines note certain obligations that REACH defines for downstream users in their communications along the supply chain (5). These involve the preparation and availability of EC safety data sheets. Power-Sonic U.S.A. and Power-Sonic Europe have their Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) available for download on their website: <http://www.powersonic.com> under literature or downloads respectively.

August 4, 2008

(1) Health and safety Executive website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/reach/about.htm>

(2) Ibid p.2

(3) http://reach.irc.it/substances_articles_en.htm

(4) Guidelines of EUROBAT for the implementation of the European REACH Regulation Covering the Manufacture and Marketing of Batteries in the European Union – December 2007, Section3 – available from <http://www.eurobat.org>

(5) Ibid. Section 4.1.

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