

Information about REACH

REACH is the chemicals regulation of the EU relating to the introduction, manufacture and use of all chemicals. It serves to protect human health and the environment. The regulation is applicable in all EU countries and is based on the principle of an increased responsibility within industry for the risk-free handling of its substances.

Substances subject to authorization

To protect human health, substances which may be considered to be of very high concern are subject to an authorisation process.

As part of this process, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) regularly publishes proposals to identify chemicals as substances of very high concern in the form of a "Candidate List". In a further step, a decision is made as to whether the respective substance on the Candidate List is subjected to an authorisation process and then, if appropriate, whether restrictions of use for this substance can be expected.

<https://echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table>

The Candidate List is reviewed by Diehl Metall after each revision by ECHA.

Lead metal was added to the SVHC Candidate List as of 27/06/2018 (SVHC stands for "Substances of Very High Concern").

Lead is contained as an alloying element in some products in Diehl Metall's range. Diehl Metall informs its customers in accordance with the information obligations under REACH. Whether further restrictions, such as authorisations for certain uses, will be made during the course of the REACH process for applications of copper and brass alloys containing lead is subject to extensive consultation and will likely not be addressed before 2020.

There are good reasons against the need for authorisation – the risks associated with handling materials containing lead are controlled.

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In the event that lead is nevertheless subject to authorisation, there will be a transitional period until 2024. Authorisations for certain uses would have to be requested no later than 18 months before the end of the transitional period. It can be assumed that corresponding authorisations will be granted by the Chemicals Agency, especially since substitution of machining alloys containing lead is not straightforward using the latest technology.

Copper and brass alloys containing lead will therefore not lose their extraordinary importance in the future.

Safety data sheets

Rods, tubes, profiles, wire as well as the turned, stamped and forged parts produced from these are products for which there is no legal obligation to generate safety data sheets. The corresponding information sheets will be provided on request.

Definition: substance, mixture and article

Cast billets and slabs are classified as substances and alloys as mixtures.

The semi-finished goods produced from these (rods, tubes, profiles, wire) as well as the turned, stamped and forged parts then generated during further processing are classified as articles.

The classification is made in accordance with the "Guidance on requirements for substances in articles" of the ECHA.

Waste and REACH

Metal scrap and chips are defined as waste in accordance with the Waste Framework Directive 2006/12/EC. They are subject to waste legislation and do not fall under the scope of the REACH regulation.

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