

RIPE – REACH Information Portal for Enforcement

1. What is RIPE?

“RIPE” stands for REACH Information Portal for Enforcement. It is a web-based application intended to give the enforcement authorities in the EU Member States, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein access to the information submitted to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). The enforcement authorities need access to this information to be able to effectively enforce the REACH and CLP Regulations.

RIPE has been developed as a separate application from REACH-IT to accommodate the need for easy and secure access by numerous users from many locations in Europe.

It has been made available to the Member States on 27 June 2011.

2. Who uses RIPE?

RIPE is intended for REACH and CLP enforcement authorities in the EU Member States, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. It may also be used by other Member State Authorities, if needed for the purposes of enforcing REACH and CLP Regulations.

Based on Member State estimates, RIPE is expected to be used by around 2 500 inspectors in the European Countries.

RIPE will not be available to the general public and the access to it is strictly controlled by the Member States and ECHA.

3. What information is available in RIPE?

RIPE holds information on submissions to ECHA made by industry. It allows Inspectors to easily check all the information, relevant to their Member State, needed for enforcement activities that are performed on a daily basis.

This includes information such as whether a dossier was submitted, by whom and when. Furthermore, it contains much of the key data from the dossier such as tonnages, production and use sites, intended uses, information on classification and labelling, guidance on safe use and key information on physicochemical, toxicological and eco-toxicological properties indicated in the dossier.

4. Why is it important?

RIPE is a tool that makes the work of enforcement authorities significantly easier, more effective and allows for much stronger control of REACH and CLP compliance. The inspectors will be able to directly and easily check if the companies have complied with their submission obligations. They will also have access to data from the dossiers so that they can make qualitative assessments of important documents, such as the Safety Data Sheets, or assess whether claims about the use of intermediates under strictly controlled conditions are justified. Moreover, access to this data will make it easier for inspectors to plan and target their enforcement activities.

5. Who benefits?

The direct beneficiaries of RIPE are its users – the inspectors. However, stronger and more effective enforcement and control will also improve the competitiveness of the compliant chemical industry. Ultimately, by allowing better control of the REACH and CLP provisions, the tool will contribute to improving the protection of the environment and the health of European citizens.