

News Alert:

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Helsinki, 14 November 2008

ECHA INTRODUCES FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN REACH-IT BUT USAGE CONTINUES TO INCREASE

The REACH-IT update of 10 November has improved the robustness of the system by reducing errors the users encounter while using it. To improve availability of the system the pre-SIEF menu and the search menu have today been removed. ECHA emphasises that due to ever increasing number of users it can still be difficult to log in and the response times can be long during peak hours. By this morning about 1.2 million pre-registrations had been received. ECHA continues implementing additional measures to ensure that companies can successfully pre-register by 1 December 2008.

By this morning about 1.2 million pre-registrations had been received and ECHA processes daily 500 bulk pre-registration files and 10,000 online pre-registrations. The traffic in REACH-IT has increased continuously. In mid September there were 2,000 users logging in per day, while the number is currently around 8,000. During peak hours (9-19 hrs GMT + 2 hrs), the number of concurrent users reaches up to 2,000 (see Annex for details), which can cause time-outs of the servers and lead to error screens from the application.

A very large number of additional submissions are expected to arrive during the remaining two weeks before the pre-registration deadline on 1 December (midnight GMT). From Monday the daily and total number of pre-registrations will be published on the ECHA home page every day.

The system update of 10 November has reduced the occurrence of time-outs and it has improved the system availability and performance. To further improve availability of the system the pre-SIEF menu and the search menu have today been removed until 2 December. Nevertheless the system is still likely to exhibit slow behaviour during peak hours. Companies experiencing this are advised to be patient and continue with their submission where possible. In addition, companies wishing to

minimise the time spent in pre-registering are advised to consider submitting their pre-registrations outside of peak hours.

Since the REACH-IT update of 24 October, the processing of bulk pre-registration files has been operating smoothly. Bulk files are processed as they arrive, and no queue is formed. Currently it is the fastest option for submitting substances with an EC number. The bulk files can be generated either by the IUCLID5 pre-registration plug-in or by methods developed by third parties e.g. the Excel sheet developed by CEFIC and CONCAWE.

ECHA will continue implementing additional measures to its REACH-IT system over the coming weeks and will monitor the performance of its system to ensure that companies can pre-register by the deadline of 1 December.

Further Information

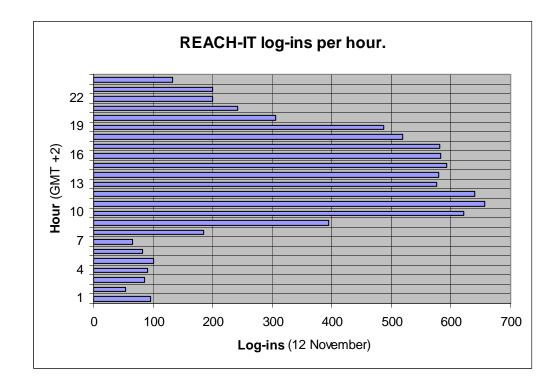
The XML format and IUCLI5 plug-in for submission of pre-registration files specified by ECHA can be accessed at:

http://ecbwbiu5.jrc.it/index.php?fuseaction=home.preregistrationFormat&type=public

Excel tool developed by CEFIC and CONCAWE can be accessed at:

http://www.cefic.be/Templates/shwNewsFull.asp?HID=1&NSID=698

Annex: REACH-IT log-ins per hour



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