

EUREX (European Enforcement Project on Existing Substances, 1997-1999)

Summary

The objective of the EU Regulation on Existing Substances (Regulation 793/93) is to obtain reliable data on Existing Substances. This Regulation requires companies to give the EU information on the risks of chemicals that already have been on the market for a long period of time and have been produced in quantities of more than 10 tonnes a year. The information makes it possible for the EU to take steps towards a better protection of man and environment and this enables Member States to evaluate the associated risks of these substances for man and environment and to consider measures for risk reduction. This was the first European-wide enforcement project (EUREX) on this Regulation.

Almost 4000 substances at 1013 companies in the EU and Norway have been checked on the Existing Substances Regulation. Inspections were carried out in a harmonized way. Follow-up actions showed that the companies were willing to comply in general, but not always informed themselves properly. In some cases this was due to lack of action of trade associations. About 9 % of the companies were in violation because they had not given the legally required information about their substances and 24 % of the companies were too late in giving the information. Important reasons for violations were problems due to the reorganisation or merger of companies and difficulties in correctly understanding the Regulation.