

## Frequently Asked Questions about REACH & Beryllium Metal FAQ 209

### What is REACH?

Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals, or REACH, is legislation in the European Union (EU) and in the countries of the European Economic Area (EEA), designed to provide safety, health, environmental and use information about chemical substances to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). REACH requires producers and importers to register chemical substances produced in or imported to the EU/EEA market in excess of 1 metric ton per year through a phased approach. After registration, chemicals may be evaluated, subjected to authorization or restricted by the agency in concert with member states. The ultimate goal of the REACH legislation is to ensure that useful safety information gets to the end users.

### How does REACH affect me as a customer of Materion Brush Inc.?

Materion Brush Inc. is committed to making our customer's transition into REACH as simple and straight forward as possible for the products you purchase from us. We have determined that the majority of our metal products, as imported into the EU/EEA, are articles. This determination is based on the [Guidance Document on Substances in Articles](#) classifying metals in massive or wrought form as articles. According to this guidance document, substances in articles do not need to be registered unless a substance exceeds 1 metric tonne per year per manufacturer or importer **and** the substance is intentionally released from the article. Normal processing of our products, such as machining, grinding, welding, etc., as well as normal wear and tear, is not considered as intentional releases. It must be noted that if a metal product is in a form that is to be melted, such as ingots whose shape is materially changed, it is considered to be a substance (pure metal) or a special preparation (alloy) whose constituents are subject to the requirements relative to REACH.

### I understand that REACH requires registration of substances. Did Materion Brush Inc. register any substances?

Even though the majority of our customers buy articles, we have registered the substances in our products as required by REACH using the "Only Representative" process. We utilized Harlan Laboratories UK Ltd to serve as our Only Representative to register beryllium and beryllium oxide and Umwelt Consult GmbH (UMCO) to register copper, aluminum, and nickel, the other alloy constituents that met the 1 metric tonne threshold.

### Will beryllium be subject to authorization?

The aim of authorization is to ensure that the risks from Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) are properly controlled or substitution is made if economically and technically viable. The publication of substances on the SVHC Candidate List is the first step to identify substances that could require that their use be Authorized. Substances are added to this candidate list periodically. **None of the substances in our products are on this present SVHC Candidate List. Since the European Commission has determined that substances in articles are not subject to authorization, our customers buying articles will not be subject to use authorization unless they incorporate a listed substance into a product.** If any of our products contain a listed substance, you will be advised accordingly.

We also want to make you aware that Materion Brush Inc. will be seeking a re-classification of beryllium in the EU. The existing classification is not based on the latest health information. The most recent scientific evidence clearly supports a re-classification of beryllium and we are confident that beryllium can and will be re-classified.

In all respects, Materion Brush Inc. will continue to supply all of its products to customers who either reside in the EU/EEA or export their products to the EU/EEA. Beryllium has been identified by the European Commission as one of fourteen substances determined to be critical to the EU. A raw material is specified as “critical” when the risks for supply shortage and their impacts on the economy are high compared with most of the other raw materials. It has been recognized that beryllium cannot be substituted by any other material in the applications that rely on the properties of beryllium to enhance product life, minimize waste, reduce energy utilization, allow for product miniaturisation and the decrease of raw material utilization. More importantly beryllium cannot be substituted in numerous life saving and life enhancing applications that provide for the safety and well being of the general public.

### **What obligations do manufacturers and importers of articles have under REACH?**

For an article containing a substance that is listed in the REACH SVHC Candidate List and the substance is present in the article in a concentration above 0.1% by weight, the manufacturer/importer is required to inform the recipients (downstream users) of the article in the EU/EEA about these substances and how the article can be safely used. Should any of our products ever contain a SVHC listed substance, you will be advised accordingly.

### **How can I obtain assistance?**

If you have any questions regarding the information provided above, would like a copy of any of the documents described in this summary or wish to provide feedback, please contact Terry Civic, Director, Health, Safety and Regulatory Affairs, our point of contact for REACH, via phone at +1 (216) 383-3698 or e-mail at [Terence.Civic@materion.com](mailto:Terence.Civic@materion.com). You may also call the Materion Brush Inc. Product Safety Hotline at (800) 862- 4118.