

## Nanomaterials

### Background

The development of novel materials is critical to the UK's long-term growth and sustainability agenda since they underpin the very future of cars, aerospace industry, communications, energy efficient products, energy industry, medical and food industries. The Chemical Industries Association (CIA) and its members firmly believe they can be produced in the UK in a responsible and safe manner, as is the case with any other chemical substance.

CIA thereby seeks a positive investment climate for encouraging nanotechnology growth in the UK (and Europe). Existing regulations can and should be used to help facilitate this growth.

CIA is working closely with UK government and other stakeholders to make the UK an attractive and sustainable place for nano research, commercialisation and addressing regulatory aspects.

### Current Status

- The European Commission is undertaking a review of its recommendation for a nanomaterial definition for use in environment and product legislation.
- Legislation amending the REACH Annexes to include information requirements for nanomaterials comes into effect on 1 January 2020. The focus is now on how this will be practically implemented.
- Some Member States have / are in the process of implementing national inventories and the European Chemicals Agency has developed and maintains an EU web-based information observatory <https://euon.echa.europa.eu/>.

### Our opinions and actions

- In 2014, the trade unions and employers in the European chemical industry signed a joint declaration setting out the importance of nanomaterials and stating that the right legislative framework is through REACH.
- Nanomaterials are similar to other chemical/substance forms in that some may be toxic and others are not. Their size alone does not indicate a step-change in hazard.
- We believe existing regulations are suitable to manage any potential risks from nanomaterials, as they are for other chemical substances. Additional specific guidance on implementing the adopted amended REACH Annexes for nanomaterials should be well designed and remain close to the legal text as possible when clarifying how to manage potential risks, whilst not undermining innovation and competitiveness.
- Higher tier data requirements should not be required for a small volume of nanoforms or set of nanoforms. In our view, these information requirements should depend on the amount produced or imported of the nanoform/set of nanoforms and not depend on the volume of the bulk substance.
- The EU's current nanomaterial definition is not practical because of uncertainty in measurement techniques for number size distribution. CIA would like to see a more practical and limited definition that is related to the normal mode of use.
- CIA believes it is important for industry that ECHA's guidance on grouping different nanoforms of the same substance is practical

and minimises unnecessary testing, especially animal testing.

- We do not believe national inventories are beneficial to either the EU economy or European citizens. For the same reason we do not believe the establishment of a separate EU nanomaterials inventory is the right way forward.
- CIA supports the EU Observatory on nanomaterials and with this in place, we see no need for either an EU register, and / or national inventories, on top of existing regulatory requirements.

### Conclusion

As work continues to enable the adopted REACH Annexes legislation to be practically implemented, CIA asks for your support on the above opinions. We seek a positive investment climate for encouraging growth and implementation of legislation that enables justified concerns to be addressed without stifling overall innovation. CIA currently leads the Nanotechnologies Supply Chain Forum, which comprises UK trade associations and Government officials. The Forum works to establish the right business environment and regulatory framework for the successful commercialisation of nanotechnologies in the UK.

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