

Chemical Substance Registration System

Taking Shape in Taiwan

Pursuant to the Regulations for *New and Existing Chemical Substances Registration*, the EPA officially launched Taiwan's chemical substance registration system on 11 December 2014. The registration system has now been enforced for over a year. Working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labor (MOL), the EPA has set up a one-stop, inter-ministerial processing window and has completed the validation of more than 7,000 existing chemical substances. In addition, the EPA has asked the MOL to including these substances into its inventory of existing chemical substances whose number exceed 100,000.

On 11 December 2013, the *Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act* was amended and promulgated, in which the system of source registration of chemical substances was introduced. Later, the *Registration Rules for New and Existing Chemical Substances* were formulated to facilitate the enforcement of the Act. As the number of chemical-related industries is large and the natures of their businesses are myriad, the technical requirements for review, registration and guidance of these industries are complex. As per Taiwan's governmental structure, both the EPA and the MOL have the authority and obligation to control the use of toxic chemical substances. In this respect, the two agencies' functions are somewhat duplicated. A case in point is the *Regulations on New Chemical Substances Registration* under the *Occupational Safety and Health Act* of the Ministry of Labor. Thus, to save the trouble of double registering and under the coordination and mediation of the National Development Council, the EPA stepped up to set up a one-stop, inter-ministerial processing window for chemical-related industries to register information on the chemicals they use. In this way, the burden of registration on chemical-related industries is effectively alleviated.

The EPA stressed that before the end of March 2015, it had processed applications for the manufacturing or import of chemical substances filed before 11 December 2014. Over the last year, the EPA held two technical review meetings jointly with the MOL, and invited scholars, experts and relevant competent authorities to participate in related discussions. So far the registration information of more than 7,000 chemical substances have been reviewed and validated, and the new additions were incorporated into the MOL's inventory of chemical substances originally announced in 2014. Altogether, more than 530 cases of new chemical

substances have been registered.

Last year alone, the EPA had established a chemical substance registration center and installed a dedicated website to facilitate industry registration. Either through documentation or through e-mail, the EPA conducted individual counseling for more than 4,600 enterprises, held 40 sessions for legal consultations and international conferences with a total of more than 6,000 participants, while taking steps to draw up a list of common Q & A for the registration of new chemical substances. All in all, it can be said that the chemical registration system is taking shape nicely in Taiwan through genuine promotion and communication.

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