

SAFE HANDLING OF MONOMERIC DIISOCYANATES

INFORMATION ON REACH 2023



INFORMATION ON EU RESTRICTION AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The European Commission has issued a regulation to restrict the use of products containing **more than 0.1 % monomeric diisocyanates**. This includes polyurethane or polyurea coatings used in industry or construction. This brochure provides you with a detailed overview of the new REACH regulation.

WHAT DOES REACH STAND FOR ANYWAY?

REACH is the European Chemicals Regulation for the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals.

The abbreviation **"REACH"** is derived from the English title of the regulation: Regulation concerning the **R**egistration, **E**valuation, **A**uthorization and Restriction of **C**hemicals.

When working with chemicals such as coating materials, the precautions given in the safety data sheets are important to protect the health and safety of the users.

When using such polyurethane products, users may be exposed to minimal amounts of monomeric diisocyanates used in the manufacture of such polymers. After complete curing, these products are then completely free of such reactive components.



THE NEW REACH REGULATION AT A GLANCE:

- The European Commission has issued a regulation amending Annex XVII of REACH **to restrict products** containing more than **0.1 % monomeric diisocyanates** on the EU market (Regulation (EU) 2020/1149).
- **Monomeric diisocyanates** are used as raw materials in the **manufacture of polyurethane products**. Sherwin-Williams uses them to produce some of its corrosion protection coatings, such as Acrolon® 7300 or Acrolon® EG-5 (formerly referenced SikaCor® EG-5).
- **Beginning August 24, 2023, all commercial and industrial users must complete training before using such products.**
- The **protective measures** specified in the **safety data sheet** remain the same as before (e. g. wearing protective gloves during processing). However, the training makes users more aware of their necessity.
- All affected Sherwin-Williams products carry a **notice to that effect on the label** as well as in the respective **safety data sheet section 2 and/or 15**.
- It is important to note that cured products no longer contain isocyanates in their finished state and that the restriction does not apply to them. It also does not apply to products with very small residual amounts (< 0.1%) of diisocyanate.

WHAT DOES THE TRAINING LOOK LIKE AND WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- The implementation is possible **online**. You will find more information on the following pages.
- **Every employer** or self-employed person **is responsible** for ensuring that **all** professional users in his company have successfully **completed training** on the safe use of diisocyanates.
- This training is **not product-related**, but application-related in general on the topic of "Safe Handling of Diisocyanates".
- There are **3 training levels depending on the application**.
- The duration for clicking through the contents with a subsequent multiple choice test is **about 1 hour**. Afterwards you will receive the certificate, which is valid for **5 years**.
- This applies only to **professional use**. Private individuals may continue to use the products without training. (Provided that the respective product is generally DIY-compliant in the first place).

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRAINING

The manufacturers of diisocyanates have developed a web-based e-learning module in cooperation with the associations of downstream users of such products. This can be used to successfully complete the training easily and cost-effectively. Here you can obtain detailed information from us on the training platform.

The training can be conducted as e-learning self-study, individually or in a group. There is also the option of classroom training or virtual or face-to-face training with an external trainer.

HOW TO GET TO THE TRAINING:

The training will be made available in all languages required by EU member states in the coming months.

At the link below you can get trained and certified for the safe handling of diisocyanates according to the legal training requirements of the REACH regulation.

1. VISIT WEBSITE:

Enter the link in your browser or scan the QR code with your mobile device.

www.safeusediisocyanates.eu/



2. COMPLETE TRAINING:



WHAT ARE THE TRAINING OPTIONS?

The training elements are divided into general requirements, intermediate requirements and advanced requirements. Training for general requirements is always required for any type of occupational or industrial use. Depending on the use and exposure risk, intermediate level or advanced level training may be required. If workers come into contact with the relevant products in two or more applications, it is advisable to choose the most comprehensive training course.

The most common **professional uses at the highest level** are the following:



Other courses are possible depending on the type of work and exposure. These may include, amongst others, the following courses:

- 005
- 011
- 018
- 019
- 022
- 023
- 034
- 035

For help in selecting the right training, please visit the FAQ on the training website. There you will find a clear selection matrix.

FAQ

WHAT ARE DIISOCYANATES?

Diisocyanates are mainly used in the manufacture of polyurethane products such as rigid and flexible foams, coatings, adhesives, sealants and elastomers. They are present to varying degrees in liquid and paste products, but react completely with ambient moisture and are therefore no longer present in finished, cured polyurethane products.

WILL POLYURETHANE PRODUCTS BE BANNED UNDER THE NEW REACH RESTRICTION?

The restriction does not prohibit the sale or use of PU products. However, some products from the Sherwin-Williams product range will be affected by this new REACH restriction.

HOW DO I KNOW WHICH PRODUCTS ARE AFFECTED?

The Sherwin-Williams products in scope already have the below information on the label and in the Safety Data Sheet section 2 and/or 15:
“As from August 24 2023 adequate training is required before industrial or professional use.”

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAINING?

It is the employer or self-employed who is responsible for ensuring that industrial or professional user(s) have successfully completed training on the safe use of diisocyanates.

WHAT ARE THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS?

The detailed training requirements specified in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the regulation are covered in the web based training.
The training elements are divided into general requirements, intermediate requirements and advanced requirements.
Training for the general requirements is always needed for any kind of professional or industrial use. Depending on the use and risk of exposure, intermediate level training or advanced training may be needed.

HOW CAN I GET THE TRAINING/TRAINING MATERIAL?

A web based e-learning module has been developed by the manufacturers of diisocyanates in cooperation with associations of downstream users of such products. The training can be completed as self E-learning at a cost of 5 EUR/ training, to be done individually or together in a group. There is also the possibility for classroom training or virtual/face to face with an external trainer.

To read more about the training possibilities and register for the training please visit the website:

<https://www.safeusediisocyanates.eu/>

WHAT IS NEEDED FOR DEMONSTRATING COMPLIANCE WITH THE TRAINING REQUIREMENT?

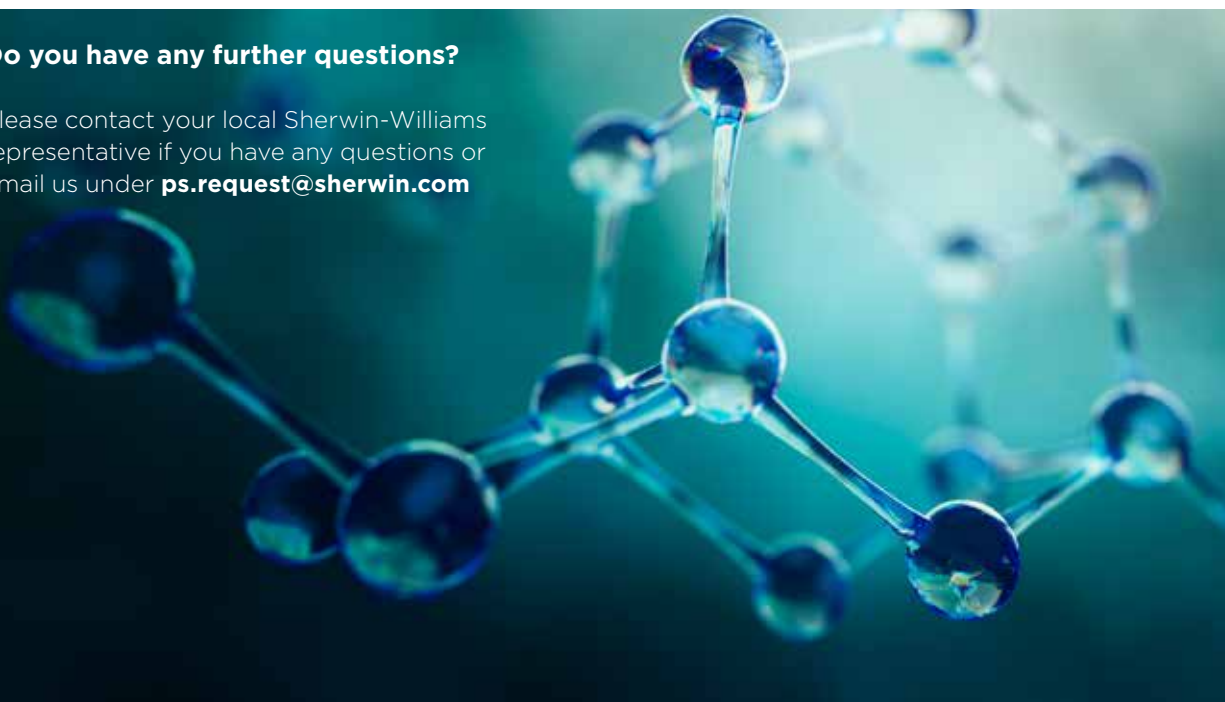
The employer or self-employed need to document the successful completion of the training and the training shall be renewed at least every five years.

For further information, please see the regulation: EUR-Lex - 32020R1149 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

In addition to the mandatory requirement, Sherwin-Williams encourages anyone using a product containing diisocyanates in any concentration to undertake some training.

Do you have any further questions?

Please contact your local Sherwin-Williams representative if you have any questions or email us under **ps.request@sherwin.com**



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THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS DIFFERENCE

Sherwin-Williams Protective & Marine delivers world-class industry subject matter expertise, unparalleled technical and specification service, and unmatched regional commercial team support to our customers around the globe. Our broad portfolio of high-performance coatings and systems that excel at combating corrosion helps customers achieve smarter, time-tested asset protection. We serve a wide array of markets across our rapidly growing international distribution footprint, including oil and gas, water and wastewater, bridge and highway, steel fabrication, flooring, food and beverage, rail and power, marine and passive fire protection.

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