

November 21, 2008

Subject: Ashland Distribution's position on REACH related to its thermoplastic line of business

Dear Ashland customer,

We appreciate your correspondence with Ashland Distribution with regard to REACH.

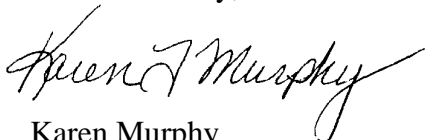
The REACH legislation, and the impact it has on the future availability of chemicals, is an issue of great importance for Ashland and its customers. Ashland is taking all necessary measures to register the substances that it manufactures in, or imports into, the European Union (EU). However, we are not in a position, due to time and legal restrictions, to complete surveys we receive regarding particular substances

As a U.S.-based distributor, Ashland Distribution is not obligated, nor are we permitted under REACH, to pre-register or register the domestically sourced materials (including thermoplastics, colorants, or other additives or ingredients) that we supply to customers in the U.S., and that Ashland does not itself import into the EU. If you are planning to ship Ashland-supplied products to the EU, we may be able to help you source those products in the EU, or work through our suppliers to provide options to meet your manufacturing needs (including a manufacturer statement if needed). Also, upon request of your European importer, we can assist with the identification of substances and, where appropriate, provide our suppliers' identities, on a case-by-case basis, for substances that you wish to be imported into the EU and that are subject to the REACH registration requirements.

As a customer of Ashland Distribution's thermoplastics, you also may be interested to know that polymers are currently exempt from the REACH registration requirements. However, manufacturers and importers of polymers may still be required to register monomers or other substances used as building blocks of the polymer, as well as colorants or other additives or ingredients of the polymer products they manufacture or import into the EU. Additionally, polymers may still be subject to authorization and restriction under REACH. For further information about REACH, you may wish to consult the European Commission's website at http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/index_en.htm.

For further information about Ashland and REACH, please consult our website at www.ashland.com or contact us at REACHAD@ashland.com.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Murphy
Vice President
Environmental Health & Safety
Ashland Inc.



Robert Craycraft
President
Ashland Distribution
Ashland Inc.