

What are the Nickel Consortia?

This is a voluntary form of cooperation, set up by the Nickel Institute, so that manufacturers/importers can proactively anticipate REACH compliance in a cost-effective way. Our expertise is based on sound science, experience of the Nickel Risk Assessment process, and balanced responsible Risk management measures.

There are three Consortia, based on the substances covered:

- **Consortium 1:** nickel metal, nickel chloride, nickel nitrate and nickel sulphate. (closed list)
- **Consortium 2:** nickel oxide, nickel dihydroxide, nickel hydroxycarbonate, nickel oxyhydroxide, nickel acetate and nickel sulphamate. (open list)
- **Consortium 3:** "Complex" materials such as nickel matte (as "intermediate"), ferronickel (as "special preparation"). (open list)

N.B.: Nickel organic compounds will not be included in the Nickel REACH Consortia.

Consortia membership

There are three types of membership:

- **Regular Members:** EU and non-EU manufacturers and importers.
- **Associate Members:** representatives of Downstream Users' sectors.
- **Observers:** National Federations, other metals associations.

What is the scope of Nickel REACH Consortia?

The advantage of pooling knowledge is evident, but specifically, Members will get:

- Support during **Pre-registration**;
- Support during **Registration**;
- Consider **scientific information needs** and **data gaps**, generate **new information** or propose **testing strategies** in support of Registration under REACH;
- **Compilation** of the Registration dossier including the Chemical Safety Report;
- **Support** in the **Evaluation** of the Registration dossier.

What are the benefits of joining Nickel REACH Consortia?

- **anticipation** and **early preparation** for REACH compliance;
- saving of human resources;
- preparation of data sharing and data generation in a **cost-efficient way**;
- the **legal safeguard** of the contract is an important element for companies when sharing information and deciding on cost allocation;
- **the quality of the technical dossier** will be further enhanced by sharing experience;
- the formation of a Consortium also increases **credibility** and **efficiency of the Industry's communication** with Downstream Users and the EU Chemicals Agency.



Cost

Cost of joining one of the Consortia depends upon several different parameters, but we pledge to follow the REACH rules on data sharing to be "**fair, non-discriminatory and transparent**". The overall cost allocation should therefore be proportionate to the costs made, or to be made, under the Regulation.



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REACH Compliance: A CHALLENGE FOR THE NICKEL INDUSTRY

What is REACH?

It stands for **Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals**.

It applies to all 27 Member States of the **EU** + the **EEA-EFTA** Countries (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein), and its main aim is to ensure a high level of protection for human health and environment, from the effects of chemicals.

In order to support the industry to comply with the REACH Regulation, the Nickel Institute has developed a **Nickel REACH Implementation Plan: NIRIP**.



Who has to register? When? What?

- ☞ **Each legal entity** of a company producing or importing nickel and nickel compounds into the EU must register. A non-EU manufacturer (i.e. a producer based outside the EU) can appoint an Only Representative to ensure a good compliance with REACH.
- ☞ The **Pre-registration** must be done between **June 1st and December 1st 2008**, giving the name of the substance, the registrant's details and the deadline for Registration. The first **Registration** deadline for substances (>1000t, R50-53*>100t and CMR>1ton) and for the Nickel Industry is **November 30th 2010**.
- ☞ **Nickel and nickel compounds** on their own or in a preparation have to be registered. Nickel and nickel compounds in articles are never intentionally released, therefore they could be only liable for notification.

* Very toxic to aquatic organisms/May cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment.

NIRIP: scope and drivers

The Nickel Institute has worked diligently with industry and government stakeholders for several years to **prepare** for the **arrival** of REACH. Since the Regulation is **complex**, it is important that all companies in the nickel supply chain fully understand their responsibilities under REACH, so that end users of nickel containing products can continue to benefit from these products without interruption.

The launching of the Nickel REACH Implementation plan (NIRIP) was extensively prepared for in 2006 and culminated in a formal **launching event** on January 23, 2007.

REACH
Policy discussion
(e.g.: review of
Annexes IV and
V)

REACH Imple-
mentation Pro-
jects: **RIPs** (e.g.:
GHS, SEA...)

NIRIP

REACH
Communication
(e.g.: training for
Ni Cs Members)

REACH
Consortia

NIRIP: Drivers

- Proactive anticipation of REACH compliance in a **cost-effective way**
- Based on **sound science**, experience of the EU Nickel Risk Assessment and balanced responsible Risk management measures

REACH Policy discussion (e.g.: review of Annexes IV and V)

The policy discussion on REACH came to an **end in December 2006**. The industry maintained in the Regulation **critical exemptions** such as exclusion of **waste** from the scope of REACH and the exemption of **ores and concentrates not chemically modified** from Registration. Nickel containing concentrates remain in theory liable for Authorisation.

There are **two important outstanding policy issues** related to REACH which will be further debated in 2007 and 2008 namely the **list of exemptions from the scope of Registration** (Revision of Annexes IV and V) and more importantly for the Nickel industry the implementation of the **GHS**, the Global Harmonized Classification and Labelling System introducing UN harmonized criteria in assessing Classification and Labelling. The Nickel Institute has established an extensive and anticipative program together with other metals associations, Eurometaux and ICMM in order to ensure the best political outcome for



REACH Implementation Projects RIPs (e.g.: GHS, SEA...)

A very crucial parallel activity are the EU **REACH Implementation Projects (RIPs)** defining the tools and instruments to implement REACH as soon as it comes into force. The RIPs cover important issues such as prioritisation and selection criteria for **Authorisation**, requirements for Restrictions on marketing and use, content of the **CSR** (Chemical Safety Report), **data sharing** and **read across rules**, harmonised Classification and Labelling... The Nickel Institute focused on aspects like Authorisation criteria and data sharing and will invest time into **Socio-Economic Analysis** (SEA) and

REACH Communication

The Nickel Institute provides clear communications to promote the Nickel REACH Consortia and to support the Consortia members:

- A training tour for Nickel REACH Consortia members: a 1 day in-company training
- Advertisements in magazines such as the Metal Bulletin
- A CD-training package
- The **www.nickelconsortia.org** website:

