

## Background

Industrial Minerals are covered by the REACH Regulation provision which explicitly states that certain categories of *"substances which occur in nature, if they are not chemically modified"* are exempted from registration and evaluation (Article 2 § 7(b) and Annex V point 7<sup>1</sup>). This exemption's grounds are that such a registration is deemed inappropriate or unnecessary for these substances and their exemption from these requirements does not prejudice the objectives of REACH.

In addition, the Guidance Document on Annex V published on the Commission website<sup>2</sup> acknowledges that: *"This exemption comprises certain 'substances which occur in nature', if they are not chemically modified, independently from whether or not they are classified as dangerous according to Directive 67/548/EEC."*

What means "not chemically modified" is further explained in the Guidance as follows:

"Minerals which occur in nature are covered by the exemption if they are not chemically modified. This applies to naturally occurring minerals, which have undergone a chemical process or treatment, or a physical mineralogical transformation, for instance to remove impurities, provided that none of the constituents of the final isolated substance has been chemically modified. Synthetic minerals are not covered by this exemption."

Consequently, industrial minerals placed on the market which do not result from a chemical modification fall under this exemption and therefore will not be registered.

For those industrial minerals which do not meet these exemption criteria because they are produced through a chemical modification, IMA-Europe provides support to the consortia which are set-up at the initiative of its Members to facilitate manufacturers and importers co-operation to fulfill the REACH Registration requirements. See table of consortia coordinated by IMA-Europe below.

IMA-Europe also provides assistance to manufacturers, importers and downstream users who need clarifications on the industrial minerals which are exempted such as bentonite, calcium carbonate, clays, cristobalite, colemanite, diatomite, feldspar, kaolin, mica, quartz, sepiolite, talc, ulexite, vermiculite, wollastonite.

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<sup>1</sup> The revised and final version of Annex V of REACH adopted on 8 October 2008 under Regulation (EC) 987/2008 is accessible at the following link: [http://eurlex.europa.eu/Result.do?T1=V2&T2=2008&T3=987&RechType=RECH\\_naturel&Submit=Search](http://eurlex.europa.eu/Result.do?T1=V2&T2=2008&T3=987&RechType=RECH_naturel&Submit=Search)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/docs/reach/com\\_rev\\_anx\\_V\\_guidance\\_081010\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/docs/reach/com_rev_anx_V_guidance_081010_en.pdf)

**Consortia coordinated  
by IMA-Europe**

IMA-Europe provides support to the following consortia which are formed at the initiative of its Members to facilitate co-operation between manufacturers and importers to fulfill their REACH registration requirements:

<b>Consortium Title</b>	<b>Substances covered</b>
Calcium Carbonate	Calcium carbonate (synthetic)
Bentonite Substances	Bentonite, acid leached
	Bentonite, acid leached, calcined
Borates Substances	Boric acid
	Disodium octaborate
	Diboron trioxide
	Disodium tetraborates
Lime Substances	Calcium Oxide,
	Calcium dihydroxide
	Calcium magnesium oxide
	Calcium magnesium tetrahydroxide
	Calcium magnesium carbonate oxide
	Calcium magnesium (di)hydroxide oxide
	Lime (Chemical) Hydraulic
Kieselguhr, soda ash flux-calcined	Kieselguhr, soda ash flux-calcined

**For more information**

All information on the consortia including meetings calendar and papers is available from <http://www.ima-reach-hub.eu/>

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