

June 2024

REACH Fact Sheet

In December 2006 the European Community established a new program for managing all chemical substances either produced or used in member states. *Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and restriction of Chemicals* (REACH) has generated considerable interest and concern among a growing number of MWS customers. MWS presents this information for our customers who need to comply with REACH legislation.

Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC)

SVHC are specific human health hazards as defined in Article 57 of REACH. At this time 240 chemical substances have been placed on the Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern for authorization. Nearly all (238 of 240 substances are not expected to be present above the 0.1% threshold for the standard bare and insulated wire products supplied by MWS Wire Industries.

On January 12, 2017 4,4'-isopropylidenediphenol (Bisphenol A or BPA) was listed on the SVHC list. Epoxies are known to contain BPA and MWS does not have clear guidance from our raw material suppliers if the formulations used contain BPA. Some cured epoxy used in parallel bonded wire could contain BPA. Since BPA is listed on the SVHC list, MWS is not able to certify MWS-made epoxy bonded products. If this is a concern, customers are encouraged to conduct testing on the epoxy bonded products they purchase.

On the January 2019 revision, metallic lead was added to the SVHC list. Lead is intentionally added to solderplated wire. Due to the listing of lead, MWS is unable to blanket certify its inventory to REACH SVHC. Be aware that as of the date of January 2019, products intentionally sold as “solderplated” or “tin/lead” are no longer REACH compliant.

Magnet wire and wire products are articles by definition

“Article means an object which during production is given a special shape, surface or design which determines its function to a greater degree than its chemical composition.”

REACH, Article 3(3)

MWS has examined this definition and determined that magnet wire and other wire products supplied to our customers meet this definition and qualify as articles. Article 7 of REACH states that the article producer or importer must register substances in articles only if the following conditions are met:

- The substances are intended to be released from the product or imported article(s) during normal and foreseeable conditions of use.
- The total amount of the substance present in the articles with intended releases produced and/or imported by that actor exceeds 1 ton per year per producer or importer.

Based on these requirements, there appears to be no obligation for a producer or importer of bare and insulated wire to register the substances in these articles unless they are used in a non-standard application that produces a substantial release under normal conditions.

< One Ton Exemption

Substances do not need to be registered under REACH if they are manufactured or imported at less than one ton per year per manufacturer or importer.

This document does not constitute and is not intended as regulatory or legal advice. It may not be relied on solely to determine compliance status with REACH. The regulation and guidance on requirements and applicability for various operators in the supply chain are available on the European Chemicals Agency web site <https://echa.europa.eu/> which should be consulted when making specific compliance determinations.