

REACH *Case story*

Distributor with active REACH strategy



Johan von Knorring
CEO, Bang & Bonsomer Group Oy

Bang & Bonsomer is a leading Finnish distributor of industrial chemical specialities, plastics, and basic chemicals. Founded in 1927, Bang & Bonsomer today operates in 9 countries and employs some 270 people.

“We have been preparing ourselves to encounter the challenges which REACH will bring to us as an importer and a distributor, by actively following the development of the REACH regulation and implementation projects,” says Johan von Knorring, CEO of Bang and Bonsomer Group Oy.

“The Technical Trade Association has from the very start been organising training on the subject, and we have also participated in schooling organised by the the Chemical Industry Federation.”

Bang and Bonsomer Group Oy has actively encountered the challenges presented by REACH:

- A REACH Task Force has been active in Bang and Bonsomer already for two years and the company management has been kept up to date on the development.
- Training has been arranged for the personnel and an informative meeting about REACH was organised for the customers.
- The suppliers both in and outside the European Union have been contacted.
- The readiness of the data system has been upgraded to meet the requirements of REACH.
- The Group website contains a REACH section, and customers have received information about REACH requirements and the readiness of Bang and Bonsomer to meet them.
- The Commercial Chamber of China and Russia have been contacted, informing them about the impacts of REACH on the import business.

The Navigator tool, the brochure for third countries prepared by the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) and the access to the national REACH help desk have proved to be of particular advantage, and von Knorring also refers to the website of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health as a useful source of information.

For Johan von Knorring, the next challenge now is to master thousands of pages of the REACH Guidance Documents on REACH processes and methods. In his opinion, the documents have become available far too late with regard to the implementation schedule of the regulation.

“Furthermore, these documents are not available in the local language,” von Knorring says, “and the replies from authorities our questions are partly too vague. One reason might be the delay of the REACH guidelines.”

“Even our suppliers have been unable to inform us whether they will provide us with all the needed products in the future. Therefore we are not yet able to inform our customers about the availability of products although the pre-registration is commencing only a in a couple of months.”