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R.E.A.C.H. (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals)

This is a new European regulation that came into force on June 1st 2007. A major aim is "to provide a high level of protection of human health and the environment from the use of chemicals"¹

Whilst the regulation is primarily aimed at the chemical industry and sales of individual chemical substances, its scope includes what the regulations term "preparations" and "articles". This latter term is wide ranging and can include cars, telephones – and batteries². However, under the section "Substances in articles"³ the following statement effectively exempts Power-Sonic from the obligation of registration of its products with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA): "...notification is not required...when exposure to humans and environment can be excluded during normal conditions of use, including disposal."

Additionally, Guidelines issued by "EUROBAT", which represents the European automotive and industrial battery industry has produced extensive guidelines which declare the battery industry, as a "downstream user" as having no registration obligations⁴.

The guideline notes certain obligations that REACH defines for downstream users in their communications along the supply chain⁵. These involve the preparation and availability of EC safety data sheets. Power-Sonic Europe Ltd. has its Material Safety Data Sheets available on our web-site (www.power-sonic.co.uk under "Downloads") or on request from our offices.

Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC)

Power-sonic batteries do not contain any of the 16 SVHP's listed by ECHA press release, Helsinki, October 9th 2008⁶.

Colin Whale
General Manager

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¹ Health and safety Executive web-site <http://www.hse.gov.uk/reach/about.htm>

² Ibid. p.2

³ http://guidance.echa.europa.eu/substances_articles_en.htm

⁴ "Guidelines of EUROBAT for the Implementation of the European REACH Regulation Covering the Manufacture and Marketing of Batteries in the European Union – October 2008", Section 3 – available from www.eurobat.org or on demand from Power-Sonic Europe Ltd.

⁵ Ibid. Section 4.1.

⁶ http://echa.europa.eu/doc/press/pr_08_34_msc_indentification_svhc_20081009.pdf