

EU 2023/2055 amending Annex XVII to REACH 12th of November 2025

Annex XVII Entry 78 details the restriction on the use of synthetic polymer microparticles in products. This restriction is under EU REACH and applies to the placing on the market of substances, mixtures and articles in the EU.

There is a derogation for industrial use under paragraph 4 (a):

“4. Paragraph 1 shall not apply to the placing on the market of:

(a) synthetic polymer microparticles on their own or in mixtures, for use at industrial sites;”

Even with this derogation there are reporting and information requirements for suppliers of synthetic polymer microparticles referred to in paragraph 4 (a) as detailed in paragraph 7. This requires the provision of the following information:

“(a) instructions for use and disposal explaining to industrial downstream users how to prevent releases of synthetic polymer microparticles to the environment;

(b) the following statement: “The synthetic polymer microparticles supplied are subject to conditions laid down by entry 78 of Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council”;

(c) the information on quantity or, as applicable, concentration of synthetic polymer microparticles in the substance or mixture;

(d) generic information on the identity of the polymers contained in the substance or mixture that enables manufacturers, industrial downstream users and other suppliers to comply with their obligations laid down in paragraphs 11 and 12.”

EU 203/2055 amending Annex XVII to REACH does not apply in the UK nor to the UK market (excluding NI).

As a UK manufacturing site Wells Performance Materials Ltd does not have any reporting obligations under paragraphs 11 and 12 of Entry 78.

The requirement to supply the information detailed in paragraph 7 is only applicable to suppliers of synthetic polymer microparticles into the EU. Wells PM is only required to supply this information when Wells PM are the suppliers into the market – i.e. when Wells PM are shipping Wells PM finished product to EU customers.

If Wells PM deliver to customers’ UK sites who then ship Wells PM product unconverted to EU sites, it is the customer who needs to provide the required information outlined in paragraph 7 and their EU sites will be responsible for submitting the information detailed in paragraph 11.

However, if Wells PM product is converted into finished articles within the UK, for example a shampoo bottle and this shipped to the EU, then there are no reporting requirements under this restriction.

To provide assistance to customers who may need to supply information to their EU sites Wells Performance Materials Ltd provides the following details in accordance with paragraph 7 of Entry 78:

- (a) Instructions for use and disposal can be found in the product TDS & SDS. Releases of synthetic polymer microparticles to the environment can be prevented by following the Operation Clean Sweep program [Home - Operation Clean Sweep](#). Wells PM are UK signatories and actively follow the program.
- (b) "The synthetic polymer microparticles supplied are subject to conditions laid down by entry 78 of Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council"
- (c) Wells PM masterbatches and compounds meet the definition of synthetic polymer microparticles at 100% concentration. Wells PM masterbatch and compounds can be supplied to the EU market under the derogation for industrial use, paragraph 4 (a).
- (d) The generic identity of the polymers contained in Wells PM masterbatches and compounds can be found in the product TDS.



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