

A Review and Discussion of EU Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 Concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) —and the Latest Developments of the Taiwan Toxic Chemical Substances Control Law

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Abstract

The EU announced Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and thereby established an integrated system for chemicals in December 2006. This regulation requires manufacturers and importers to assess the risks posed by chemical substances they manufacture or import, and to take the steps necessary to manage known risks. They are obligated to prove the safety of chemical substances. In other words, the EU REACH system is based on registration at the source, requires manufacturers and importers to provide all the safety and risk assessment information on chemical substances, and in this way builds gradually an information system of existing and new chemical substances, promotes substitutions for hazardous chemicals, and serves to achieve the goal of sustainable development. This system has already been adopted by many countries and become a new, international trend in chemicals management. Under pressure from the ongoing appeals from environmental groups, in December 2013, Taiwan modified finally the “Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act,” introducing not only the

REACH system, but also information disclosure concerning the release of toxic chemicals. Recently, the EPA further issued the “Regulation of New and Existing Chemical Substances Registration.” This study aims to explore the contents of the EU REACH system, and then review the advantages and disadvantages of the newly established REACH System in Taiwan.

Key Words: EU REACH-Regulation, chemical substances, Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act, information disclosure concerning the release of toxic chemicals