

July 4th, 2007

To Whom it may Concern

Subject: REACH

Dear Business Relation,

You are aware that the European Parliament and the Council have adopted, on 18 December 2006, a new EU regulatory framework for chemicals, known as REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals). The REACH Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 30 December 2006 and is applicable since June 1st 2007.

Amongst other obligations, REACH will require the registration of chemical substances. In this process the substances on their own, in preparations or in articles, are evaluated in respect to health, safety and environmental aspects when manufactured, placed on the market and used. The registration process will stretch over the next 11 years and will be preceded by a pre-registration phase (1 June 2008 – 1 December 2008).

For what concerns minerals, Article 2 § 7(b) and Annex V point 7 explicitly exempt from registration and evaluation "minerals which occur in nature, if they are not chemically modified" because such a registration is deemed inappropriate or unnecessary for these substances and their exemption from these requirements does not prejudice the objectives of this Regulation. Consequently, **limestone, dolomite, aggregates and calcium carbonate** we place on the market will fall under this exemption and will not be registered.

Concerning **quicklime, hydrated lime and dolime**, these substances are, at this stage, covered by REACH. The pre-registration of these substances is in progress in order to fulfil the calendar of the REACH Regulation.

As some articles of this Regulation need to be more defined or clarified by the EU Commission, CARMEUSE will continue to closely monitor the development of the REACH legislation by actively working through the European Lime Association (EuLA) and the Industrial Mineral providing stakeholder input into the legislative development process.

While the exact details of the implementation are not known yet, CARMEUSE has appointed a REACH Implementation Team. The team is carefully assessing the impact of the forthcoming legislation on our business and product portfolio. The objective is to ensure timely REACH compliance with no or minimum business disruption for our customers.

We remain at your disposal for any further information you might wish on this REACH issue.

Yours Sincerely,

Carmeuse Nederland
R.P.F. de Groot
Managing Director

Damien Grégoire
Group Environment Director



Carmeuse Nederland
Postbus 436
NL-2800 AK Gouda
Nijverheidsstraat 32
Tel.: 31/182.527255
Fax: 31/182.526264
E-mail: info@carmeuse.nl
www.carmeuse.nl

Fortis Bank Nederland
23.00.07.767
K.v.K. Gouda nr. 290 35510
BTW nr. NL 3764084 B01