

## REACH and Industrial Minerals.

As you are probably aware 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 will enter into force as of 1 June 2007.

Amongst other obligations, REACH will require the registration of chemical substances, followed by an evaluation process. 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, stored and used. The registration process will stretch over the next 11 years and will be preceded for the so-called phase in substances by a pre-registration phase (1 June 2008 – 1 December 2008).

With respect to 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, most of the mineral products we place on the market will fall under this exemption and thus will not be registered.

As in virtue of Article 138 § 4 and recital 36, the European Commission should clarify certain issues on the Annex V no later than 1 June 2008. Dansand A/S will in any case continue to closely monitor the development of the EU legislation on REACH amongst others by actively co-operating with its industry association (IMA-Europe [www.ima-europe.eu](http://www.ima-europe.eu)) for the follow up of further legislative developments.

Dansand A/S is carefully assessing the impact of the forthcoming legislation on our business and product portfolio. The objective is to achieve implementation of this new and extensive regulation with no or minimum business disruption for our customers.