Webinar: New ECHA public data availability system - Part 1

Questions and answers

This document is based on the questions received during the webinar organised on 19 April 2023. Editorial changes have been made to improve clarity and similar questions have been combined.

For the most up-to-date advice, contact us or refer to our website.

#	Question	Answer
Data protection / confidentiality		
1	Are you going to add the info on who is the EU REACH Lead Registrant of the substance?	At the moment the publication of who is the lead registrant is not foreseen. Changes in publication policy will always be announced well in advance, to give time to adjust or update the submitted data.
2	As you say all dossiers will be published. I hope you mean no further information than the current tool is being published? For example, company specific concentrations?	No. We are not at present changing the level of publication. Changes in publication policy will always be announced well in advance, to give time to adjust or update the submitted data.
3	If you display the information dossier by dossier, what about the	The dossier-by-dossier publication will not change the way confidentiality of information is managed by ECHA. Within each dossier, the data flagged confidential by the data submitter

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	confidentiality of each dossier? What information will be kept confidential?	will be redacted from the published version. As at present, where the data flagged confidential constitutes a legally assessable confidentiality claim, the claim must be justified, and the administrative fee paid. The justification is assessed by ECHA, and where the justification is considered valid the claim is accepted and the related information remains redacted from public view. If the claim is rejected, then the information will be published once the claim assessment has been completed.
4	When every dossier is published and the information is not aggregated very much, will it be (easily) possible to say which dossier is from whom?	The registration dossiers will indeed be published as such in the new Data availability system, without aggregating them with other dossiers for the same substance. However, to maintain the current level of discretion, the company names and registration numbers will be published as separate lists disconnected from the dossiers to which they pertain.
5	Will a registration number be visibly connected to the registrant i.e., will the last 4 digits be shown in their online dossier? The current list prevents that.	At the moment, and in line with current publication practice, we do not foresee to publish the registration number in combination with the related registration dossier or the registrant name. If any, changes in publication policy will always be announced well in advance, to give time to adjust or update the submitted data.
6	Will for example special commercial "other names" be published within the scope of the single dossiers?	Similarly to the current solution, if provided in a submitted dossier and if NOT flagged confidential, then yes any other names will be published. All identifiers provided in the IUCLID section 1.1 Other identifiers table are subject to publication, if not flagged confidential.
7	Will the new system disclose further information than the current one? If so, which additional information would be disseminated?	No. The new Data availability system will make information available in a more future-proof and efficient way. We are not at present changing the level of publication, or the publication policies currently in place. Changes in publication policy will always be announced well in advance, to give data submitters the time to prepare and assess if they foresee a need to introduce further confidentiality claims.
8	Will we have any details about lead registrants info in the new system?	At the moment the publication of who is the lead registrant is not foreseen. Changes in publication policy will always be announced well in advance, to give time to adjust or update the submitted data.
9	If each submitted dossier is published on the website, how is confidentiality protected? Does that mean each dossier is accessible by competitors?	Each submitted dossier is published already today, only in an aggregated form. Similarly, since the data is publicly available it can be seen by anyone, including potential competitors. In the new data availability system, confidentiality will be protected, same as now, by respecting the data flagged confidential in the submitted dossiers and redacting as appropriate. In addition, there will be no explicit link between the published dossiers and the respective data submitters.

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		As at present, where the data flagged confidential constitutes a legally assessable confidentiality claim, the claim must be justified, and the administrative fee paid. The justification is assessed by ECHA, and where the justification is considered valid the claim is accepted and the related information remains redacted from public view. If the claim is rejected, then the information will be published once the claim assessment has been completed.
Searching		
10	Will there be a property search on the substance data?	In the first versions of the new system, you will be able to search for substances using standard chemical identifiers, such as CAS number, EC number and chemical names. Following our incremental approach, we will in later versions expand some of the search features in line with the goals of the new system and identified stakeholder needs. Note that a search by substance properties is currently offered by the eChemPortal, which also incorporates the REACH registration data from ECHA: https://www.echemportal.org/echemportal/property-search
Data display		
11	Can you elaborate on how REACH reg dossiers info will be displayed? Joint dossier info on 1 page & individual dossiers info displayed dossier by dossier?	We will publish the dossiers as received removing the confidential information, thus dossier by dossier independently of whether the dossier is a joint submission lead or member dossier, or comes from an individual submission. Contextual information will be given to help choose the dossier of interest. In the next webinar we will provide visual examples of the display.
12	Perhaps I misunderstood, but did you say that the new DB will show each registrant's dossier? Or each registrant's substance?	Each dossier. E.g., there are ~ 300 separate registrants / suppliers for Formaldehyde. Each of their ~ 300 submitted dossiers will be published separately.
13	When a registration dossier is updated, there will be a clear way to understand which kind of data has been updated? (i.e classification or tox data etc)	At the moment, we have not foreseen to design specific features to track changes in the disseminated dossiers – this is also in line with the approach to publish the latest version of each registration. With the publication of each dossier and related contextual data, it will be possible to see at a glance which dossier(s) for a substance have been recently updated.
14	Will it be possible to still look all REACH dossiers on one page? Having multiple dossiers will expand the time to look for a specific information.	From the new Data Availability system substance dashboard there will be a link to a page which will contain the list of the latest versions of all REACH registration dossiers for that substance. Hence, you will be able to see all the dossiers on one page, and from there you can open and browse each dossier separately. Normally, there will be one Joint submission for the substance with the Joint submission lead dossier containing the bulk of the data on the substance properties. Information and filters will be provided to assist users in identifying

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		their dossier(s) of interest.
Transition phase		
15	During the transition, as you said both websites will still be available, however will the classic (old) website still be updated until full migration ?	As explained in the presentations, we are moving ECHA's current Dissemination platform / Information on chemicals database into the new Data availability system in an incremental way, starting in the end of 2023. The current dissemination platform will remain available during this transition, but the data sources that are moved to the new system will not be updated anymore in the legacy platform. Once we have transferred all of the data in scope of dissemination to the new system, we will take down the current platform, but this will still take a few years. We will keep you informed of the progress along the way.
16	Will links to specific sections of a REACH dossier in the old database redirect to the corresponding page in the new system?	We will provide redirection from the current platform to the new system through links. We foresee to add links to the new Data availability system from at least the current substance Infocards, and from the REACH Registered substance factsheets portal (e.g. https://echa.europa.eu/substance-information/-/substanceinfo/100.000.002, and https://echa.europa.eu/information-on-chemicals/registered-substances)
Export/download functionalities		
17	For the Regulatory list for 2024: how could we manage the export?	We have captured the need to export the regulatory data and we intend to offer this possibility for regulatory lists in the new Data availability system. We are currently in the process of defining features for the regulatory content and we will share with you our designs once available.
18	I have not heard a word about a possible access via webservices / API . It was the only thing needed and instead you revised the website. Focus is wrong. Why?	The current dissemination solution can no longer sustain the amount and variety of data that that we have today, which has led to repeated stability issues that many of our stakeholders have also noticed. At the same time, we see many new sources of data to be made available in the near future. With this in mind, the way forward is to build a new system that can cater for both current and future needs in the most reliable and effective way possible. In the first version of the new system, indeed we aim to fulfil the needs expressed by the majority among respondents to our surveys and will keep a similar level of access to information as today, making available information for visual browsing only. New ways to make data available, including APIs, will be explored in the future for relevant datasets.
19	Is there any plan to make data available via Application Programming Interface (API),	In the first version of the new Data availability system, we will make information available for visual browsing as per ECHA's mandate. New ways to make data available will be explored in the future for relevant information, including via API. However, the introduction of any future

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	enabling automatic downloads and data analysis, rather than manual downloads? If that is not the case, why?	data availability method will depend on what is technically and legally feasible, noting the possible exclusive rights held by third parties to the information.
20	While waiting for API please preserve at least the download/export function as it is now otherwise it will be difficult to integrate ECHA data in our solutions	The first version of the new Data availability system will include REACH dossier data, which we will make available for visual browsing only. New ways to make data available will be explored in the future for relevant datasets, including download/export. Note that the current dissemination platform will remain available during this transition, but the data sources that are moved to the new system will not be updated anymore in the legacy platform.
21	Will it be possible to extract data in excel but not all info in the same cell?	Yes, similar to today we envision that information such as search results and lists of dossiers could be exported to Excel. For data exports we would aim to follow best practices and to make the exported data the most useful possible. Thus, every export would ideally be as granular as possible and would not contain or force information to be concatenated in the same cells.
22	Will it be possible to extract large amounts of data to excel? Today the amount of data is quickly too comprehensive for the export as no result is received.	In the first version of the new Data availability system, you will be able to browse the information visually. In later versions we will look at making certain information available for download. Similarly to today we envision that the search results and lists of dossiers can be exported to Excel. For such exports we would aim to follow best practices and to make the exported data the most useful possible. Regarding the information from registration dossiers, in later version of the new system, we foresee making available part of the information in the IUCLID format, similarly to the REACH study results package currently available on the IUCLID website.
23	Will the technical bugs that happen when a search gives no hits persists? Will there be an API available so people can automate searches?	With the new data availability system, we aim to solve some of the stability issues we have been experiencing with our current platform, including with the Advanced search which is probably what the first part of your question refers to. In the first version of the new system, we will make available information for visual browsing. New ways to make data available, including APIs, will be explored in the future for relevant datasets.
24	Would it be available in the future to download the reference substance (in i6z format) or the EC inventory	We are investigating new ways to give the possibility to download substance identity information in the format of the IUCLID reference substances (to replace the existing download mechanism from the IUCLID website and from REACH-IT). However, these

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	directly from the substance page or dossier page?	improvements will not yet be in scope of the first version of the new Data availability system.
Accessibility		
25	Will it be possible to use the database from Turkey?	Yes, it will make it possible to access the data availability system from anywhere in the world, provided you accept the terms and conditions of use.
Other features / content		
26	Do you plan to add a link to available Information on a substance at EFSA or EMA?	In the ECHA Data availability system we will not have links to EFSA or EMA data. If the European Commission allocates the task to establish an EU-wide common data platform to ECHA, the new Data availability system can later be transformed to such a platform thanks to its modular and expandable design.
27	Is it planned to include Dispersion stability and other recent endpoints?	All studies related to REACH regulatory endpoints will be subject to dissemination in the new system, this includes the endpoint 'Dispersion stability of nanomaterials' whenever submitted by a registrant in their dossier.
28	Why is a simple Information like molecular weight not more prominently visible in on a Substance dissemination site? Thank you.	For those regulated substances which are well-defined chemicals, a molecular formula is already available in the substance Infocards today. Similarly, it is foreseen that molecular formulas will be made available in the new Data availability system. Using the molecular formula, it should always be possible to calculate the molecular weight, as required.
29	Will the new database be available in all EU languages at the same time?	The IUCLID user interface, on which also the dossier viewing in the new system is based, is made available in English due to the important number of harmonised forms and fields required to prepare regulatory dossiers. The information is also largely submitted by companies to ECHA in English. If needed, users can use existing online or local IT solutions to translate relevant terms or pages.
Classification and Labelling Inventory		
30	It's time the HS list is not working on the site. Do you know it and could you tell us something about the fixing? Thanks [HS = harmonized substances]	The list of CLP Annex VI entries is always available as a set of Excel files, one per ATP, at: https://echa.europa.eu/information-on-chemicals/annex-vi-to-clp. All data from ATPs 1 to 16 is integrated with the current C&L Inventory and the relevant substance Infocards. ECHA is working on integrating data from ATPs 17 and 18, which should be available by the end of May 2023 at the latest.
31	Thank you for a short and precise webinar. Regarding your timeline does this mean, that errors ind the current C and L inventory are not corrected until 2024?	Until the new C&L Inventory is ready in 2024, only the current C&L Inventory will remain available. In the new C&L Inventory we are working on ways to present aligned C&L data much more prominently, and to de-emphasize the non-aligned data. This will make finding an aligned C&L per substance much easier. As at present ECHA has under the CLP Regulation the mandate to publish all data as submitted. As under REACH, we cannot edit the data as

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		provided by data submitters.
32	Will there be a clean-up of misinformation as part of the transfer of the C&L inventory (for an example, look at water...)	In the new C&L Inventory we are working on ways to present aligned data more prominently, and to de-emphasize the non-aligned data. For the water example this will make much clearer that 99%+ of the data submitted indicates that water is not classified. That said, ECHA has under the CLP Regulation the mandate to publish all data as submitted. As under REACH, we cannot edit the data as provided by data submitters.
33	Many think hazards shown on the C&L page are mandatory, but at times there are 2 different results for the same endpoint. Will the new DB make this clearer?	We assume that the question refers to self-classification. For harmonised classification, the reason for why a substance has more than one classification is specified as part of the classification entry. For self-classification, it is correct that valid reasons may exist for why substances have been classified in more than one way by registrants and notifiers, including different study results and differences in the structure, hydration, form and composition of substances. ECHA only receives parts of these reasons in the registration dossiers and C&L notifications. With the new C&L inventory, we aim to increase clarity on the reason for a classification, where it has been indicated by the submitter.