

**AWARENESS WORKSHOP  
ON  
Registration Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH)**

IL&FS Cluster Development Initiative Ltd. (IL&FS CDI) in association with UP Leather Industries Association (UPLIA), under Kanpur BDS Project, organised a Workshop on REACH, today at CLE Auditorium, HBTI Campus. The Workshop was sponsored by leading chemical manufacturers' BASF & LANXESS. The Workshop was attended by about 50 delegates representing various sections of the industry like leather and leather goods, footwear accessories, textiles



etc. as well as service providers like leather technologists, chemical providers, tanners'. The Workshop was addressed by Ms. Sunanda Kadam, Business Development Manager, Caleb Brett India Pvt. Ltd., who coincidentally has expertise

in conducting over 50 workshops on the impact of REACH.

**REACH** is a new European Community Regulation on chemicals and their safe use (EC 1907/2006). It deals with the **Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of CHemical** substances. The new law entered into force on 1 June 2007. It is mandatory for the industries that manufactures / export chemicals to EU more than 1 ton/year.



The REACH Regulation gives greater responsibility to industry to manage the risks from chemicals and to provide safety information on the substances. Manufacturers



and importers will be required to gather information on the properties of their chemical substances, which will allow their safe handling, and to register the information in a central database with European Chemical Agency.

REACH Impact on Consumer Goods is explained as below –

REACH, while focusing on chemical substances that are placed on the market in the EU also creates obligations for manufacturers / Importers of semi-finished or finished goods - or "articles" as they are called in the Regulation.



Consumer products companies who continue to use chemical constituents that carry



known risks may face civil liability exposure, particularly where safer substitutes have been identified. Notably, the mere fact that a constituent has been authorized for use by the Agency will provide no defense to a consumer

action brought under the EU's strict product liability regime. This provides that producers of consumer products are liable to consumers for harm caused by product defects, notwithstanding regulatory approval/pre-emption, the fact that the fault was in fact caused by another (e.g. the manufacturer of a dangerous chemical constituent) or the producer's own lack of knowledge of the defect.

The governing body ( European Chemical Agency - ECHA) will ask the end-user's to provide the list of chemicals involved in the finished products & the end-user's will have to prove that there are no such chemicals in their products by providing them documented information etc.



In the end Mr. Taj Alam, President – UP Leather Industries Association, offered the Vote of Thanks on behalf of the organizers and sponsors. In his brief address, Mr. Alam cited a personal example, wherein his own industry had to pay a major price for



a minor technical fault, exhorted upon the audience not to vilify the European regulation as a business roadblock, but to take it up as a challenge and be a part of the communication chain. The industry should also ensure that apart from its product, the packaging

material used is also free from any harmful substances.