



**All products are covered by chemicals legislation  
– do you know how this affects your company?**



# There are chemicals in everything. And as a business operator you are responsible.

As a business operator, you are responsible for ensuring that the products you import, manufacture or sell comply with the laws and regulations for chemicals. This may seem far-fetched if you deal with everyday items such as electronics, shoes and toys. But these products are also covered by chemical regulations, just like glue, paint and lubricants.

## What you need to know

Rules regarding chemicals are governed by a number of different laws, regulations and directives, depending on criteria such as product, substance and volume. Some substances are banned in certain products, others require you to have a permit. But for most products you must comply with the regulations, which have implications including the following:

- that you know that your products do not contain banned substances
- that you can be obliged to inform your customers if the products contain certain substances
- that the product is clearly labelled in Swedish, for example how it must be handled in order to ensure safe use
- that you may need to report products to the Products Register

## Your responsibility – and others

The regulations differ, depending on whether your company is a manufacturer, importer, distributor or end user. The important point is that every link in the supply chain bears its own responsibility. Therefore, you cannot refer to the fact that you bought something from a supplier who has to comply with the regulations. Your company must take your own responsibility regardless of where you source raw materials, materials or finished products. Ask and make demands of your supplier!



## Did you know that

- most products are covered by several different sets of rules
- silver in sportswear, for example, is considered a pesticide (biocide) as it is there to kill bacteria
- even small volumes, as in a little tube of glue, are covered by chemical regulations
- CE marking is not a guarantee that all regulations have been met
- products made of natural materials such as wood or leather are also covered by rules about chemicals

## If you make a mistake

We conduct checks and inspections to make sure that companies are complying with the rules. Inspections are also conducted by municipalities, county administrative boards and other authorities. Companies that fail to comply with the rules about chemicals must rectify any deficiencies. You may have a sales ban imposed or be forced to recall the product from your customers. More serious infringements may lead to a report of a suspected environmental offence. The company can also be forced to pay an environmental sanction charge.

## Find out more

At the Swedish Chemicals Agency, we want to make it easy for you as a business operator to do the right thing. There is information at [kemikalieinspektionen.se/en](http://kemikalieinspektionen.se/en) about what the rules are for different kinds of businesses, products and substances. You can also find Q&As there and ask your own questions. Why not visit our website today to find out how your business is affected and what you need to know to take your responsibility?

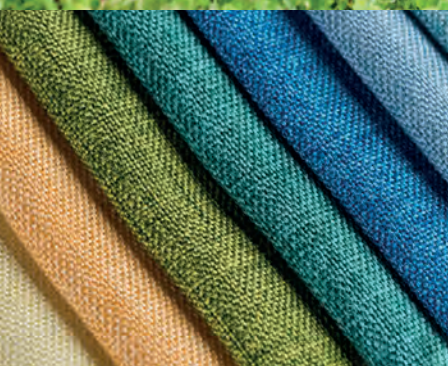
**Find out about the rules and how your company is affected – visit**



[www.kemikalieinspektionen.se/en](http://www.kemikalieinspektionen.se/en)







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The Swedish Chemicals Agency is supervisory authority under the Government. We work in Sweden, the EU and internationally to develop legislation and other incentives to promote good health and improved environment. We monitor compliance of applicable rules on chemical products, pesticides and substances in articles and carry out inspections. We review and authorise pesticides before they can be used. Our environmental quality objective is A Non-toxic Environment.

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