



October 2008

Statement regarding Columbian's Preparation for REACH

Dear Customer:

On the 13th of December 2006, the EU Parliament has adopted the regulatory framework for Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals, Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. **REACH** has entered into force on the 1st of June 2007.

Understandably, over the past months, there has been increased concern over the registration status of crucial raw materials such as carbon black. Please be assured that Columbian has already taken preparatory actions and is dedicating the necessary resources to ensure compliance with the REACH requirements to guarantee the carbon black supply to our customers will not be adversely affected.

Columbian has pre-registered its European legal entities manufacturing and/or importing carbon black (CAS#1333-86-4, EINECS# 215-609-9) into the EU. Furthermore, all Columbian's carbon black production facilities located outside the EU have also been pre-registered through a sister company, CC Holdco (Luxembourg) S. à r. l., acting as Only Representative. Consequently, the entire carbon black volume produced and traded by Columbian worldwide is now pre-registered as per REACH.

Columbian intends to fully register these facilities before the November 2010 REACH deadline. A single carbon black dossier will cover all Columbian's grades with reference to all the uses and downstream applications Columbian is aware of.

As far as Safety Data Sheet (**SDS**) is concerned, though Article 31 within REACH requires a format change, it is our understanding that a transitional period will be allowed until the end of 2010 for changing the SDS into the new required format.

Columbian hopes that this letter clarifies its position over the REACH process, and provides information sufficient for your needs at this time. Columbian will keep you informed on the evolution of its REACH registration. Please be assured that Columbian is committed to safety, health, and protection of the environment. If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please do not hesitate contacting me directly.

Sincerely,

Gilles Moninot

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