

## Press Release

BYK completes REACH pre-registration within only four days.

**Wesel, June 23, 2008.** BYK is one of the first companies in the chemical sector to complete the official pre-registration within the framework of the REACH regulation.

Only four days after the start of the pre-registration phase on June 1, 2008, BYK was able to complete the complex undertaking as early as June 4. "For our customers this means maximum and earliest possible certainty that our products remain available as normal," Dr. Gerald Kirchner, Head of Product Development at BYK, explains.

REACH, the European chemicals regulation, has been in force since June 1, 2007. It implies registration, evaluation and authorization of produced and imported chemicals at the new European chemicals agency ECHA, based in Helsinki. This allows all the relevant information about the chemicals found on the European market to be collected and assessed centrally.

All in all, around 70 of BYK's own manufactured products with an annual tonnage in excess of one tonne are affected by REACH. The rest of the schedule for REACH does not envisage the actual registration of the products until several years ahead. It will take place, based upon the quantities produced, between 2010 and 2018. BYK can reliably make use of the transition periods applicable, because all necessary steps for pre-registration have been undertaken.

From the very beginning, BYK has been engaged intensively with the new European chemicals regulation. The company has expressly declared its support for the REACH principle of the individual responsibility of producers and importers. In 2003 and 2004/2005, BYK was already proactive in putting the implementation of the regulation to the test in North Rhine-Westphalia or on Europe based simulations, in its role as both a manufacturer and a downstream-user of chemicals. In doing so, it was able to gain important knowledge for the actual implementation. Internally, BYK also set up its own REACH working group to accompany the project.

Customers of the company have been able to receive up-to date information on REACH repeatedly since August 2006, in numerous BYK seminars and workshops. "We are not only attracting wide interest from European customers, but also from Asian and American customers," Dr. Gerald Kirchner reports.

#### About BYK Additives & Instruments:

BYK Additives & Instruments is one of the world's leading suppliers in the additives and instruments sector. Approximately 85% of our sales are generated by foreign countries. Our major export markets are Europe, the United States and the Far East.

Additives are used by processing industries in the production of coatings, inks, plastics and papers. In very small quantities, BYK additives simplify manufacturing processes, and significantly improve the quality of finished goods, such as motor vehicles and furniture.

Testing and measuring instruments from BYK can quantify the quality of color and gloss and the physical properties of paint, plastic and paper products. Instruments from BYK are predominantly used for quality control.

BYK Additives & Instruments is a member of ALTANA, Wesel. ALTANA develops and produces high-quality, innovative products in the sector of specialty chemicals.

BYK Additives & Instruments employs around 1,140 people worldwide, 25% of whom work in research and development departments or technical laboratories.

This press release is also available on the internet at: [www.byk.com/press\\_releases](http://www.byk.com/press_releases).

Date  
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Page  
1/1

Contact  
Market Communication

Frank Dederichs  
Head of Market Communication  
Tel +49 281 670-217  
Fax +49 281 670-660

Verena Skelnik  
Market Communication  
Tel +49 281 670-741  
Fax +49 281 670-660

BYK-Chemie GmbH  
Abelstrasse 45  
46483 Wesel  
Germany  
Tel +49 281 670-0  
Fax +49 281 65735  
info@byk.com  
[www.byk.com](http://www.byk.com)