On 18 October 2011 the Commission adopted the Recommendation on the definition of a nanomaterial. According to this Recommendation a "Nanomaterial" means:

A natural, incidental or manufactured material containing particles, in an unbound state or as an aggregate or as an agglomerate and where, for 50 % or more of the particles in the number size distribution, one or more external dimensions is in the size range 1 nm - 100 nm.

In specific cases and where warranted by concerns for the environment, health, safety or competitiveness the number size distribution threshold of 50 % may be replaced by a threshold between 1 and 50 %.

By derogation from the above, fullerenes, graphene flakes and single wall carbon nanotubes with one or more external dimensions below 1 nm should be considered as nanomaterials.

Detailed and technical information about the definition of a nanomaterial is available in the "questions and answers" section.

REACH Implementation Projects on Nanomaterials 2 and 3:

The Commission launched a comprehensive REACH Implementation Project on Nanomaterials (RIPoN) in 2009 to provide advice on key aspects of the implementation of REACH with regard to nanomaterials concerning Information Requirements and Chemical Safety Assessment. The two final reports are available here:

RIPON2: Information Requirements

RIPON3: Chemical Safety Assessment

Based on the scientific and technical state of the art with regard to nanomaterials, the reports have been developed in such a way that the advice on specific issues related to nanomaterials can be integrated into the existing REACH guidance documents. It must be noted that inclusion of any of the advice from the reports into the ECHA guidance is exclusively the responsibility of ECHA. The presented reports do not represent official ECHA guidance. Nevertheless, while awaiting the official guidance up-date, companies are invited to consult the two reports and take the recommendations into account as appropriate when preparing or updating REACH registration dossiers and evaluating hazard information for potential classification under CLP.

A third report of the RIPoN project relates to Substance Identity. The final report is available but as it was not possible to reach consensus amongst the experts on the recommendations, further work of the Commission, in collaboration with CARACAL, is required before recommendations can be forwarded to ECHA.