

Obligations of EU candle and reed diffuser producers under REACH and CLP

What do I need to consider when I make candles or reed diffusers in the EU?

An EU company who makes candles (including wax melts) or reed diffusers needs to be aware that they may have legal obligations under EU chemicals regulations, and they need to consider these obligations before they place the candles or diffusers on the market. These products are chemical mixtures under EU regulations REACH and CLP and if they are classified as hazardous to human health or the environment (due to an added fragrance for example) or for physical hazards, then they must be in compliance with these regulations before they are placed on the market.

How do I know if my candle or diffuser is classified as hazardous?

The classification of the candle or the diffuser will depend on the classification of the different ingredients that go into the product and their concentration in the final mixture. Information on the classification of the ingredients, including fragrance oils, will be obtained from the company who supplies them to the candle or diffuser producer - the information will be in section 3 of safety data sheets provided by the supplier.

Classification of the ingredients can also be checked on the European Chemicals Agency's (ECHA) [website](#) using the chemical name or product identifier, such as the CAS number. The concentration of each hazardous ingredient in the mixture then needs to be calculated in order to determine if the final mixture is classified as hazardous. Further information on how to classify a mixture is available on the ECHA's website at [this link](#).



What about the packaging and labelling for my candle or reed diffuser?

If the candle or diffuser is classified as hazardous, or where the statement 'Contains (name of sensitising substance). May produce an allergic reaction' is required, then the candle or diffuser must be labelled and packaged in accordance with CLP before it is placed on the market. A label cannot be applied directly to a candle wax, as it is intended to burn. Therefore, all candles that are classified as hazardous need to be placed in packaging. An open glass container, aluminium foil used for tea lights, or an openwork paper box are not considered as packaging under CLP. A candle in such a container must be supplied in packaging that complies with CLP, with the label firmly affixed to one or more surfaces of the packaging immediately containing the candle, and positioned horizontally on the side of the packaging, so that it can be easily read. Similarly, the bottle of a diffuser classified as hazardous must have a CLP label when placed on the market. If the diffuser is placed on the market in an outer box, then the outer box must also carry the CLP label.

For small candles and diffusers, certain labelling exemptions may apply.

Further information on the requirements for labelling and exemptions for small packaging is available in our [Information Sheet](#).

Do I need to notify information on my candle or reed diffuser to the Irish National Poisons Information Centre?

Yes, if a candle or diffuser is classified as hazardous to human health or due to its physical properties, then a poison centre notification (PCN) must be completed in each Member State where the hazardous mixture is placed on the market. The National Poisons Information Centre (NPIC) is the body responsible for receiving these notifications in Ireland. Further information in the process is available on NPIC's [website](#).



ECHA's Poison Centres web pages contains practical guides, Q&As and video tutorials on the PCN process and can be accessed [here](#).



Do I need a UFI?

Yes, if a candle or diffuser is classified as hazardous to human health or due to its physical properties and placed on the market for a consumer or professional use, a UFI (unique formula identifier), is required to be placed on the label. A UFI is a 16-digit code and is usually generated using the company's VAT number and a mixture-specific formulation number. Entering these two numbers into ECHA's UFI Generator online tool will provide the UFI code. The UFI establishes an unambiguous link between the information provided in the PCN with the product placed on the market. The UFI will primarily be used by poison centres in the event of an emergency call. The timing for including the UFI on the label of the candle or diffuser product should coincide with the submission of the PCN, as described above.

What about Safety Data Sheets?

Safety Data Sheets are required for all hazardous mixtures placed on the market for industrial and professional users. They are not required for hazardous mixtures for consumer use. If an SDS is required, then it must be compiled in accordance with Annex II of the REACH Regulation. Further information on safety data sheets is available at the following [link](#).

Are there any other standards for candles that I need to be aware of?

There are three standards for candles which come under the remit of the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) and the National Standard Authority of Ireland (NSAI). They should be contacted directly for any queries. The standards are:

- I.S. EN 15426 CANDLES - SPECIFICATION FOR SOOTING BEHAVIOUR
- I.S. EN 15493 CANDLES - SPECIFICATION FOR FIRE SAFETY
- I.S. EN 15494 CANDLES - PRODUCT SAFETY LABELS



Where can I get further information?

Visit www.hsa.ie/chemicals or www.echa.europa.eu
Email queries to chemicals@hsa.ie

HSA

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority