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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.9.2026)

Entry 78 of Annex XVII to the Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of chemicals (REACH)¹ (“the microplastics restriction”) allows synthetic polymer microparticles (“microplastics”) to be placed on the market for industrial use by the derogation under paragraph 4(a). This means that industrial users may buy these microplastics as raw materials for their own production in compliance with the restriction. However, using these derogated microplastics in industrial production triggers the reporting obligation under paragraph 11 of the same entry. In contrast, if the raw material does not contain any microparticles, then the restriction, including the reporting obligations, does not apply.

To support implementation of the microplastic restriction, the Commission has published a specific Explanatory Guide². It explains in simple terms the provisions and the intended implementation of the restriction, including for reporting. In addition, questions on REACH implementation, including the microplastics restriction, can be addressed to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)³ or the REACH national helpdesks⁴. Detailed operational instructions on how to report estimated microplastics emissions to ECHA are published on the ECHA website⁵.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20260511>.

² https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/chemicals/reach/restrictions/commission-regulation-eu-20232055-restriction-microplastics-intentionally-added-products_en.

³ <https://www.echa.europa.eu/support>; https://comments.echa.europa.eu/comments_cms/Contact_REACH.aspx

⁴ <https://echa.europa.eu/support/helpdesks>.

⁵ Guidelines for the reporting requirements set by the REACH restriction of synthetic polymer microparticles (microplastics):

https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/17246/rest_microplastics_reporting_guidelines_en.pdf/69fe1946-3729-4d21-0d85-cdc72d05e870?t=1764055280171.

How to prepare a microplastics report (IUCLID):

https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/17247/reach_how_to_prepare_a_microplastics_reporting_en.pdf/82727169-39fe-4235-f898-80acac79c113?t=1764069996328.

Video Tutorial: How to submit a microplastics report to ECHA:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFt4sKpC9G4>.