

## **Information on STIHL and VIKING products in conformity with Article 33 of the REACH Regulation**

### **1. General information concerning the REACH Regulation**

With the European Union's new chemicals regulation, the EU has established a uniform system for the **Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemical substances** – known for short as **REACH**. This regulation includes not only chemicals in the commonly understood sense but also all substances, preparations (paints, coatings etc.) and products (furniture, vehicles etc.).

In principle, all chemicals – including those that have already long been in circulation – must be subjected to a risk analysis. In the coming years, the entire range of substances available on the market shall come under closer inspection. The aim is to achieve a high level of protection for the environment and health.

### **2. General requirements of Article 33 of the REACH Regulation**

Under certain criteria, suppliers must communicate information on a supplied product if it contains specific substances.

These substances are defined as “substances subject to authorization”. These substances shall be listed at a later date in Annex XIV of the REACH Regulation. As a preliminary step, a “candidate list” of substances proposed for eventual inclusion in the said Annex XIV is being established. A substance can only be included in this Annex after a formal procedure. However, in some cases, the listing of a substance in the candidate list for eventual inclusion in the authorization procedure may already impose a duty on the supplier to communicate information.

### **3. Information on substances in STIHL and VIKING products**

STIHL and VIKING finished products, such as chainsaws, brushcutters, cut-off machines, lawn mowers, tillers, shredders etc. contain less than 0.1% by weight of substances subject to notification. Consequently, STIHL and VIKING finished products are not subject to the REACH requirements on the communication of information as laid down in Article 33. However, since the EU Commission intends to update the substance list regularly and at short notice, we shall inspect our products accordingly.

And what about toys?

Some of our advertising and promotional articles are intended as toys for children. As a general rule, we ensure that these advertising and promotional articles are tested by independent test institutes. Before accepting a new toy into our range, we check whether it contains any substances subject to compulsory notification under REACH or any other hazardous substances. Only toys that pass these strict tests are finally accepted into the range.

**4. STIHL and VIKING comply with legal limits or undercut them**

Regardless of the above procedures, STIHL and VIKING of course adhere to the relevant applicable legal requirements for the design and composition of all their products. STIHL and VIKING subject many of their products to the test requirements for voluntary certification, such as for the GS or KWF quality marks, thereby often setting higher standards for their products than are required by law.

Moreover, in addition to compliance with legal limits and voluntary testing, STIHL and VIKING are constantly working on the design of their products to ensure that they are not only safe and as ergonomic as possible when correctly handled but also that they have a positive overall balance in terms of their environmental compatibility.

ANDREAS STIHL AG & Co. KG  
Materials Research Department

VIKING GmbH  
Central Quality Department

Date: 06. October 2008