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RE: General Information – REACH Substances of Very High Concern

To our valued customer:

REACH is a European Union regulation concerning the **Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of CHemicals**. It came into force on June 1st, 2007 and replaces a number of European Directives and Regulations with a single system. **REACH** requires manufacturers or importers of substances to register them with the central European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). **REACH is not a requirement in North America.** However, this regulation affects companies that export products to Europe, since these products must also be in compliance with the regulation.

The Regulation rules the use and placing on the European market of certain chemical substances, on their own or contained in preparations or articles. The aim is to identify their hazardous properties and recommend appropriate risk management measures along the supply chain.

The identification of a Substance of Very High Concern (**SVHC**) and its inclusion in the Candidate List is the first step of the Authorisation procedure. ECHA is obliged to regularly submit recommendations of substances that should be subject to Authorisation to the European Commission. To this end, ECHA prioritizes the substances from the Candidate List to determine which ones should be included in the Authorisation List (Annex XIV). These substances cannot be placed on the market or used after a given date, unless an authorization is granted for their specific use, or the use is exempted from Authorisation. As of the date of this letter, the Authorisation List includes 31 chemicals and an additional 173 specifically named chemicals are included in the Candidate List. The current Authorisation List, Candidate List and additional information about **REACH** can be found on the ECHA website <http://echa.europa.eu>.

Once a substance is included in the Candidate List of **SVHC**, it creates certain **legal obligations** for the **importers, producers** and **suppliers** of an **article** that contains such a substance. **REACH** defines an article as an object which during production is given a special shape, surface or design that determines its function to a greater degree than its chemical composition. As a result, the steel products supplied to your company, by Steel Warehouse, are considered articles in the sense of the **REACH** regulation.

As of the date of this letter, the steel products we deliver contain no SVHC above the current REACH declaration thresholds. We continue to monitor the **SVHC** Candidate list and will inform our customers in the event of inclusion of a **SVHC** substance that exceeds **REACH** thresholds and is contained in our steel products.

Under **REACH** guidelines, a North American company that exports product to the European Union cannot register itself. **REACH** obligations in this case must be fulfilled by the importers or by a company established in the European Union nominated as the company's representative. Consequently, the registration with ECHA of a substance covered by **REACH** is not our responsibility.

Very Truly Yours,

Steel Warehouse Company LLC

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