

Adhesives, sealants, chemicals and paints.

R&D tax relief



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In the age of rapid technological growth, developments in adhesives, sealants, paints and speciality coating materials are being undertaken across the globe to meet diversified and challenging technical applications.

Advancements in materials and new legislative requirements such as REACH mean that this industry is one in which substantial research and development is being performed.

There are strict rules covering R&D tax relief claims. Our specialist R&D team will ensure that the claim is accurate and will stand up to any HMRC scrutiny. If the right boxes are not being ticked in terms of what qualifies under the R&D legislation, any claims against this scheme will come to nothing.

For this reason many potential adhesives, sealants, chemicals and paints claims are not even attempted, because many companies are rightly reluctant to spend significant amounts of time and money with no guarantee of success.

We can make the whole process simple by preparing a claim on the company's behalf. We provide the right information in the right format so that HMRC can quickly agree the R&D claim.

Typical qualifying claims

- Development of coatings for a manufacturing environment to reduce build up of work-in-progress and use of manual labour, thus significant testing is needed to assess best chemical composition. This new coating makes an appreciable improvement to an existing process.
- Development of a non-solvent based maskant to protect metals and other substances in manufacture. This is an ongoing project but even if the advance in science is not achieved or not fully realised, R&D still takes place.
- Development of a new resin, which involves testing waterproofing properties as well as its tolerance to spraying, dipping and rolling, thus creating a resin that performs an existing process in a new and innovative way.
- Developing a machine to enable a currently manual task to be carried out with only one operator, which involves research into the use of bitumen glue and the development of software to ensure certain parameters are maintained. This advance in both science and technology has tangible consequences (new process to generate less waste) and more intangible outcomes (improved cost and new knowledge).
- Development of a certain type of thermo-plastic where similar research and development has or is being carried out by other companies but the technology and details are not available as it is a trade secret.
- Development of a slip-resistant vinyl for application to road surfaces where durability, colour fastness and safety are issues to be overcome.
- Development of a new expanding foam which is making an appreciable improvement to an existing process and material through scientific or technological changes.

These are examples of what you may be doing, but if you can do them by following routine or conventional methodology then the claim will not be qualifying. The legislation essentially dictates that you have to be doing something that others in your industry are not doing.

Contact us to receive a free health check and one of our experienced R&D advisers will be able to ascertain whether the development activity qualifies. If you are unsure at this stage, a telephone conversation with one of our advisers will be able to definitively establish whether or not a claim can be made.

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