



Exponent®
Engineering & Scientific Consulting

Ruth Colau

Managing Scientist | Chemical Regulation and Food Safety
Harrogate
+44-1423-878-963 | rcolau@exponent.com

Professional Profile

Ruth Colau is a Managing Scientist with extensive experience in the chemical industry, specialising in Industrial Chemical regulatory compliance, environmental science, and project leadership. With a strong academic background, including a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science and a Postgraduate Certificate in REACH Management, Ruth is known for her scientific expertise and effective management of complex, multi-jurisdictional projects. She is recognised for her collaborative approach, problem-solving skills, and commitment to delivering high quality projects. Ruth's dedication to excellence and her ability to build strong client relationships make her a trusted advisor for organisations navigating the evolving landscape of chemical regulation and environmental stewardship.

As a Managing Scientist, Ruth offers deep expertise in Industrial Chemical regulatory compliance, environmental risk assessment, and chemical safety, with a particular focus on EU and UK REACH regulations and Environmental Read Across methodologies. She is adept at leading multidisciplinary teams and managing complex projects, from environmental impact assessments of substances such as PFAS to global regulatory compliance for diverse product portfolios. Ruth's scientific acumen is complemented by her ability to interpret and apply evolving regulatory frameworks, ensuring clients remain compliant and competitive. Her strengths include project management, data gap analysis, and the preparation of REACH technical dossiers for regulatory submissions.

Ruth's consultancy experience spans a broad spectrum of clients, including private sector companies, industry consortia, and manufacturers across the fine chemicals, automotive, and consumer goods sectors. She has supported global clients from SME's to Fortune 500 companies, providing tailored solutions for regulatory compliance, product stewardship, and environmental sustainability. Ruth's collaborative approach and clear communication style have made her a trusted partner for clients navigating complex international regulations and seeking strategic guidance on chemical management and product safety.

Academic Credentials & Professional Honors

B.Sc., Environmental Science, University of Derby, 2007

Prior Experience

Principal Consultant, Ramboll, October 2022 – October 2025

Senior Consultant, Environmental Resource Management (ERM), May 2017 – October 2022

Senior Regulatory Consultant, Anthesis (UK) Ltd (Caleb Management Services), March 2016 – April 2017

Regulatory Specialist, The Acta Group EU, Ltd, February 2010 – March 2016

Regulatory Affairs Associate, Harlan Laboratories Ltd (formerly SafePharm Laboratories), June 2007 – February 2010

Professional Affiliations

Full Member of the Institution of Environmental Sciences (MIEnvSc)

Publications

Vijayaraghavan K, Zhao K, Zhuang Y, Kristanovich F, Hurtado C, Shi S, Zhou J, Boeije G, Papanastasiou D, Hulse R, Boelens M, Li A, Cush M, **Colau RC**, Armstrong MD, Yang B. (in press). Modelling of Trifluoroacetic Acid from Hydrofluoroolefin-1234yf Emissions from Automotive Air Conditioning.

IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute. (2017). ProScale – A life cycle oriented method to assess toxicological potentials of product systems.

Downes-Norriss RC, MacDougall LS. What is happening with chemical regulation outside of the European Union? Elements, The Chemicals NorthWest Magazine Autumn 2015.

Downes-Norriss RC, MacDougall LS, Németh G. (Pearl). (2014). Think REACH does not apply to your company? Are you certain? Read On. Elements, The Chemicals NorthWest Magazine Spring 2014.

Bergeson L, **Downes-Norriss RC**, MacDougall LS. European Union (EU) registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemicals (REACH). In Global Chemical Control Handbook: a Guide to Chemical Management Programs. ABA Book Publishing 2014.

Project Experience

Ruth has led and managed an environmental technical team assessing the impacts of PFAS for a private sector client, contributing to the submission of PFAS comments to ECHA. She has managed global regulatory compliance for a diverse range of products—including printer inks, car cleaning products, automotive products, and large-scale engine greases and lubricants—overseeing obligations across multiple jurisdictions. Ruth has successfully identified and rectified UK REACH compliance breaches for clients, preparing and submitting DUINs, Inquiries, and NRES dossiers. She has conducted comprehensive data gap analyses for EU consortiums, optimised substance tracking databases during a secondment with an EU manufacturer, and served as Team Lead on automotive compliance projects. Her leadership has been recognised with several awards, including a Global Recognition Award in 2018, a Client Recognition Award for a major REACH registration project in 2018, and a Safety Award in 2022.