

ROSETTA - ENHANCING DATA QUALITY BY STANDARDISATION OF DATA ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE

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Objective: In 1996, EAPCCT and several European industry organisations have developed a paper form for exchange of product information in a harmonised manner (1) between companies and poison centres (PC). Since that time, this harmonised format has been used frequently in Europe and became a highly accepted standard for product data exchange. With increasing computer power in PC and companies and increasing opportunities of secure electronic data exchange a need for an harmonised electronic version of the format arises. Method: Embedded in the German national research project TDI (Network for information and cases documentation in German poison centres) a format describing product data and address data was designed. This was tested using a newly developed data acquisition program and an import program connected to the project's product and address database, a copy of which has been installed in each of 7 project centres. Results: A new data format XML ROSETTA was developed. XML language rules are used to describe the structural elements. Each ROSETTA data package consists of up to 4 main elements describing (a) the (whole) data package with its logistics, (b) product information (0, 1, or more products), (c) addresses (at least one address per package), and (d) evaluation parameters. Each main element is structured further up to 3 sublevels. Element (c) contains company address data, communication numbers, and an identification number for each company that links to external reference lists of addresses maintained by national institutions. The main element (b) contains the complete EAPCCT format for product information (1). Each product is linked to at least one company described in element (c), indicating authorship, producer of the product, or other relations. The complete format is published on the project's website (2) for easy access for all persons and institutions interested in harmonized product data exchange. Conclusion: All requirements for electronic product data exchange (in EAPCCT format) between several independent centres have been fulfilled. The system is ready and recommended for international data exchange.

Reference: (1) Exchange of Information Between European Poison Control Centres And Industry (AIS:FIFE:FEA). EAPCCT Newsletter April 1996, p. 3-13

(2) <http://www.tdi-network.org>