

Toxicological Information- und Data Network - A European Challenge?

Workshop, Berlin 9th - 10th September, 2002

The Swiss Product Register

Peter Bormann

The Swiss product register contains chemical products (preparations) and substances that are legally on the Swiss market since 1972. It includes about 250'000 products with their full composition. Approximately half of them are on the Swiss market today. Not included are food products, cosmetics, drugs and ionizing substances and products. Products for public use (consumer products) and products for industrial use (industrial products) are distinguished. The register contains the following information:

- The complete composition
- Use categories of the preparation, e.g. use in polymers, use in paint, dyes, varnish, use as fungicide, etc.
- Swiss toxicity class of the preparation or substance
- Address of the manufacturer
- Address of the registrant (foreign manufacturers require a registrant that is domiciled in Switzerland)
- Toxic endpoints
- (EU classification)

The register contains no information about the amount of products or chemicals on the Swiss market. If this is needed, the registrant is contacted.

The register allows to keep an overview of products on the Swiss market. Due to the complete compositions, the register permits to search for all products that contain a specific substance. This is very helpful for exposure assessment, e.g. in the framework of the risk assessment of existing chemical programmes. In addition, the Swiss Toxicological Information Center has full access to the complete compositions of all products so as to be able to provide the requested information in the event of incidences of intoxication.

Lists of all registered products and substances are publicly available in a printed version and via internet (<http://igs.naz.ch>). These lists include the Swiss toxicity class, restrictions in use and some basic declarations. Confidential data, such as the complete composition is not published.

Currently, the Swiss law on toxicants provides the legal basis for the register. This law is presently being revised and harmonized with the European chemical legislation. Within the scope of the future Swiss chemical law, the complete composition of products is only requested for plant protection products and for biocide products.