

# PRODUCT DATA COLLECTION APPROACHES IN EUROPE: FRANCE

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- Sources of information
- Data collection depending on the type of products
- Limitations
- Perspectives

# 1- Sources of information

- No legally organized and comprehensive system for product data collection at the present time in France
- Approaches differ markedly depending on the type of products and between Poison Centers
- Information is easily accessible for some types of products, but difficult to obtain for many other types of products
- The sources of information are varied: CD roms, websites, books, compendiums...

## 2- Data collection depending on the type of products

### ➤ **MEDICINAL PRODUCTS FOR HUMAN OR ANIMAL USE:**

- Data is easily accessible and complete only as regards the active ingredient(s)
- Data on the excipients/additives can be obtained from specialized websites (e.g. Thériaque)
- Access to data on veterinary products may be more difficult (e.g. old products)

### ➤ **PESTICIDES:**

- Data is easily accessible as regards pesticides intended for agricultural use
- Data is less accessible regarding pesticides for household use, but packaging of any pesticide must legally display the list of all active ingredient(s) and their respective amount/concentration
- No data is available regarding the other ingredients, such as solvents and additives

➤ **COSMETICS:**

- Very comprehensive data is available on all cosmetic products
- but only in the Paris, Marseille and Lyon Poison Centres to whom manufacturers are legally requested to send the data
- Access to this information is complicated by legal restrictions

➤ **INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS:**

- Manufacturers are legally requested to send the data to INRS (National Institute for Research and Health at the workplace)
- Access to this data is extremely difficult for Poison Centres, except those whose administration has signed a legal agreement with INRS (e.g. Paris)

### 3- Limitations

- No data is therefore systematically and legally available on many products today in France
- At the Lyon Poison Centre, the approach has been to collect data by establishing and maintaining close relations with manufacturers to obtain data on a regular basis when products are first released to the market, and also in case of poisonings
- Over the years, a large database could be collected and rarely the needed information could not be obtained very rapidly (e.g. via phone call and faxed reply)
- Limitations to this approach are obvious:
  - The database cannot be expected to be comprehensive (based on case-by-case collection)
  - It includes primarily products marketed by French companies
  - This approach is time-consuming

## 4- Perspectives

- Efforts are under way at a national level to improve the situation
- A computerized product database is under construction that will mix the various locally-established databases and be updated with data on new products for periodical distribution electronically to all French poison centers
- Legal requirements are being implemented, e.g. for cosmetics, industrial products, or products containing hazardous substances