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Toxikologischer Dokumentations- und Informationsverbund
Toxicological Information and Data-Network - a European
Challenge?

Product Data Collection Approaches in Europe – United Kingdom

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Directive 1999/45/EEC Article 17

Bodies responsible for receiving information relating to health

Member States shall appoint the body or bodies responsible for receiving information, including chemical composition, relating to dangerous preparations placed on the market and considered dangerous on the basis of their health effects or on the basis of their physico-chemical effects.

Member States shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the appointed bodies provide all the requisite guarantees for maintaining the confidentiality of the information received. Such information may only be used to meet any medical demand by formulating preventive and curative measures, in particular in case of emergency.

The collection of data

- The collection of product data is an important issue for poisons information centres (PICs)
- correct identification of composition enables risk assessment & management advice

Sources of data

- readily available sources:
 - national formularies for pharmaceutical agents
 - regulatory listings for agrochemicals
 - information provided by the manufacturers on packaging and Internet websites
- access to specific information from particular industrial sectors (e.g. soap and detergent manufacturers), sent voluntarily in the UK, and included in PIC databases

Responsibility for collection & provision to health professions

- In the UK the responsibility for collection of data and its provision to health professions is divided between
 - PICs
 - Government and executive agencies of government
- System is incomplete and fragmented
- There is no overall strategic direction

Responsibility for collection & provision to health professions - 2

- The most recent regulations in the UK to address dangerous preparations (Chemical (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations (2002)) no longer mentions the 'Poisons Advisory Service'

UK PICs provide data

- to health professionals
- via the telephone service
- or the Internet-based national database, TOXBASE
- It is not the role of UK PICs to provide data of any sort directly to the public

Data received

- The amount and quality of the data provided by manufacturers is variable
 - And often incomplete from a PIC perspective
- Manufacturers wish to supply data is partly from good will & partly for legislative reasons
 - The legislative position, however, is not clear

- PICs have not, either in the UK or at EU level, been able to effectively influence the framing of legislation
 - MSDS legislation does not require full declaration of formulae
 - Packaging descriptions are missing or poor

Utility of data provided

- The impact of the provision of (non-pharmaceutical) product data to poisons centres on patient care is unknown.
- Most enquiries to UK PICs involve pharmaceuticals (~70%)
 - information about active ingredients and packaging is available and complete.
- Most, but by no means all, household products are of low acute toxicity.

Impact on patient care

- Poor access to data has a small effect on the management of acute poisonings.
- The ability to retrospectively survey cases of exposure to particular compounds to detect health impact is severely limited by the lack of accurate and comprehensive product data
- results in weaker human case data

Impact on surveillance

- Concerns about low level, long-term exposures and the related effect on the sustainable use of chemicals should be a driver to improve the collection and dissemination of data on products, preferably, electronically to subsequently improve human case data

Agenda 21 Chapter 19

- > Six programme areas proposed:
 - a. Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risk
 - b. Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals
 - c. Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks
 - d. Establishment of risk reduction programmes
 - e. Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals
 - f. Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products
 - g. the enhancement of cooperation related to programme areas.