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Documentation Programme for Products

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Detergents, cleaning and maintenance products (e.g. hand dishwashing products, bathroom cleaners, shoe creams and furniture polishes) are used in nearly all households. Only few of these products require labelling as "corrosive". In Germany the formulations of these products and of biocides must be notified to the Federal Institute for Health Protection of Consumers and Veterinary Medicine (Bundesinstitut für gesundheitlichen Verbraucherschutz und Veterinärmedizin - BgVV) in Berlin. The vast majority of detergents, cleaning and maintenance products do not fall under this requirement. All the same, the manufacturers notify their formulations on a voluntary basis to the BgVV or to poison control centres, because it is important to know that a certain product is harmless to avoid unnecessary - possibly in-patient - treatment.

Besides also in Germany some detergents, cleaning and maintenance products are released into waste water (e.g. textile detergents, floor cleaners). These products must be notified to the Federal Environmental Agency (Umweltbundesamt - UBA).

Notifications to the UBA focus on information about the environmental compatibility of detergents, cleaning and maintenance products whilst details on impacts on human health, e.g. if products are unintentionally ingested, are most important in notifications to the BgVV and poison control centres. However, many particulars (e.g. trade name, name and address of manufacturing company, description of packaging) must be provided in notifications both to the UBA and to the BgVV and poison control centres. For this reason, good use was made of the research and development project of the toxicological documentation and information system "Toxikologischer Dokumentations- und Informationsverbund - **TDI**" to develop the data collection programme "**EMIL**". This programme, which is in use since August 2002, enables the collection of all necessary data for the mentioned three types of notification and

data exports as DES files for the UBA and ROSETTA files for the BgVV and poison control centres, respectively. A description of "*EMIL*" is given.