

# Toxicological Information- und Data Network - A European Challenge? Workshop, Berlin 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2002

## The Swedish National Products Register

a presentation (Ulf Rick, KemI)

### Historical background

The Products Register was founded in 1978 and was a result of a new legislation from 1973 called the Law on Hazardous Goods, hazardous meaning hazardous to man and environment and goods meaning chemical products, substances and preparations.

### Building a Products Register

*The first phase* could be called the Identification step. We had to identify all companies acting under this law meaning a) all companies manufacturing chemicals (manufacture meaning both synthesis of chemical substances and blenders, making the preparations) and b) all companies importing chemical substances and preparations to Sweden.

*The second phase* could be called the building up-stage. It was not one but many small steps over the years to come; the last step taken in 1991 when the register in its present form was decided on.

### The main areas of information in the register are

1) Use area – where is the product used?

We use the same coding as Statistics Sweden. Their code set is called NACE (Nomenclature Général des Activités Economiques dans les Communautés Européennes) and consists of a set of alpha-numericals from A01 (agricultural work) up to O90 (communal waterworks) with additional digits if you need a finer definition. Today we use some 100 codes.

2) Function – what is the chemical used for?

A set of function codes was established for the Products Register but long before we introduced it, the Swedish OSHA was using this code set in their register on occupational accidents, ISA, a register still in use in Sweden. This code set consists today of some 150 different codes. Over the last year we have been working on a joint code system for all the Nordic product registers and we aim to install this new system next year.

This code system is also possible to link to the code system UC55 used by the European Chemicals Bureau for instance in EUCLID.

3) Consumer use

4) Classification and labelling

We ask for labelling information of the product, i.e. what symbol will be found on the label and some of the risk phrases used. We do not register all R-phrases, only risk for cancer, allergy, reproduction hazards and environmental hazards.

5) Composition information

The easiest but also the most difficult way to handle this is to ask for 100 % composition. Today we do not ask for the whole composition out of historic reasons. But we foresee a situation where we must go on and ask for 100 %.

Today we ask for all substances giving the product hazardous properties. That means we ask for all substances leading to labelling the product as hazardous. But this information should also include all substances with cancerogenous, allergenic and repro-toxic effects even if the product is not labelled as such. All other substances  $\geq 5$  % must also be reported. Also all preservatives must be reported irrespective of their percentages by weight.

The substances must be identified with its unique chemical name and/or with its CAS-number or EU-number and each substance must be given its exact percentage by weight. Intervals as you find on labels or MSDS's will not be accepted.

### Confidentiality

As you probably know acts or information gathered in any Swedish authority is open information unless stated otherwise in the legislation. Quantity per product and the overall composition of the product, hazardous components in most cases excepted and the exact percentage by weight might per component may be considered confidential.

### **Main uses of the Products Register**

The Chemicals Inspectorate is a supervising authority and one of the main uses of the Register is of course to supervise companies manufacturing and importing chemical products.

The Chemicals Inspectorate is also an authority obliged to produce national statistics on chemicals. We produce and publish statistics on a yearly basis both on paper and on the web. Please try out our web-site [www.kemi.se](http://www.kemi.se) and click on Statistics.

Other authorities may also use information from the register. These authorities include the Swedish OSHA, the Swedish EPA at the national level and also regional and local authorities dealing with chemical problems.

Over the years there ha been quite a few discussions on the cooperation between the Products Register and the Poison Information Centre. In the early 80-s we came to a formal understanding on cooperation involving an encrypted modem connection. Unfortunately this was never realised on account of lack of finances. What has been realised though is giving the Poison Information Centre a full copy of the register.

I also must point out that in December each year we freeze and save it in a historical database. That means we can look for trends since we now possess a nine years database with comparable chemical data.

### **SPIN**

SPIN means Substances in Products in the Nordic Product Registers.

We have taken out non-classified data from all the different Nordic Product Registers and put that information into a common database now being produced in Denmark financed the Nordic Council. The aim is to put this database on the web with free access to data.

## **Conclusion**

I have been trying and I hope I have succeeded in giving you an impression of the usefulness of the Swedish Products Register. We aim to make it even more useful during the years to come by asking for better composition information. We will also try to install programs, which will enable us to search for conformational parts of molecules and use this information as a search tool in the Products Register. Wishful thinking? Of course, but there really are no limits to information retrieval from stored data today.