

Notification of chemical products to the National Poison Information Centre in Ireland

Background: Importers and formulators of hazardous chemical products, placed on the Irish market, must notify certain information about these chemical products to the National Poisons Information Centre (NPIC). In addition, where the notified chemical product requires a Safety Data Sheet, the importer or formulator must include the NPIC emergency telephone number in Section 1.4 of the Safety Data Sheet. This is explained in more detail below.

What chemicals products should be notified? A chemical product must be notified to the poison centre in Ireland when all of the following conditions are met:

- ✓ **It is a mixture**, as defined by CLP Article 2(8)ⁱ: ‘a mixture or solution composed of two or more substances’; and
- ✓ **It is classified as hazardous**, on the basis of its health or physical effects, as stated in CLP Article 45(1); and
- ✓ **It is placed on the Irish market.** CLP Article 2(18) defines ‘placing on the market’ as ‘supplying or making available, whether in return for payment or free of charge, to a third party. Import shall be deemed to be placing on the market.’”

Who needs to notify? It is the importer of a chemical product into the EU or the formulator (downstream user) of a chemical product within the EU, who places the chemical product on the Irish market who is responsible for notification to the poison centre.

What information needs to be notified? The information requirements are set out on the website of the National Poison information Centre (NPIC). The NPIC were appointed as the responsible body in Irelandⁱⁱ for receipt of information in accordance with CLP Article 45(1).

Where is the notification sent to? The notifications should be sent directly to the National Poison Information Centre at Beaumont Hospital. Tel: +353 1 8092566, email: npicdublin@beaumont.ie, website: www.poisons.ieⁱⁱⁱ

Will the information to poison centres be harmonised? Yes, in accordance with CLP Article 45(4), the European Commission is currently working on harmonising the information submitted to Member State Poison Centres and the legislative changes are underway. In the interim, an XML harmonised reporting format^{iv} is expected to be available on the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) website www.echa.europa.eu shortly to assist companies with the submission process. However, the NPIC cannot yet accept notifications in this format.

Do I need to notify other EU poison centres? Yes, when a chemical product is being placed on the market in another EU Member State they also require notification to the appointed body of that Member State, which may be a poison centre. There is a list of European appointed bodies available at the following [link](#)

CLP Article 45 states: Member States shall appoint a body or bodies responsible for receiving information relevant, in particular, for formulating preventative and curative measures, in particular in the event of emergency health response, from importers and downstream users placing mixtures on the market. This information shall include the chemical composition of mixtures placed on the market and

classified as hazardous on the basis of their health or physical effects, including the chemical identity of substances in mixtures for which a request for use of an alternative chemical name has been accepted by the Agency, in accordance with Article 24

Safety Data Sheets and Emergency Numbers: In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.4 of Annex II of REACH^v, it is obligatory to include a poison centre emergency number, taking note of the following:

- ✓ Any chemical product that meets provisions outlined above should be notified to the poison centre in Ireland and the associated safety data sheet for that chemical product should include the NPIC emergency contact number.
- ✓ It is also permitted to include (in addition) an external emergency number, as appropriate.
- ✓ The NPIC emergency number cannot be used in Section 1.4 of an SDS until the notification process, which includes payment of an annual fee, is complete. The notification process is explained on the NPIC website www.poisons.ie/Manufacturers/Product-Registration.
- ✓ When placing chemical products on the market in other EU Member States, the respective poison centre number, where established, is required to be included in Section 1.4 of the SDS. Further information is available on the ECHA website under the [National Helpdesk contact details](#)

Annex II of REACH states: *“References to emergency information services shall be provided. If an official advisory body exists in the Member State where the substance or mixture is placed on the market (this may be the body responsible for receiving information relating to health referred to in Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008), its telephone number shall be given and can suffice”.*

ECHA guidance on the compilation of SDSs states: *The supplier must provide a reference to emergency information services. If an official advisory body as defined in the legal text above exists reference to it must be made. Otherwise (or in addition) reference to an emergency service belonging to the supplier himself or to a competent third party provider of such a service must be made. Where the supplier provides his own emergency information service, be it alone or in combination with an official advisory body or other provider, the necessary competence should be available”.*

References

ⁱ [CLP Regulation 1272/2008](#)

ⁱⁱ http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Legislation/Acts/Chemicals_Acts_2008_and_2010_and_the_Guide/

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.poisons.ie/Manufacturers/Product-Registration>.

^{iv} http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/chemicals/poison-centres/index_en.htm

^v [REACH Regulation 1907/2006](#)