

## Poison Centres

### What are Poison Centres?

According to Article 45 of the Classification of Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation, companies placing hazardous mixtures on the market are obliged to provide information about hazardous chemical mixtures to the relevant national bodies, in all EU countries where the mixtures are marketed.

The national bodies make this information available are described as Poison Centres, and are intended to give advice to the citizens or medical personnel in the event of an emergency (dependent on national arrangements). Annex VIII to the CLP Regulation, adopted in March 2017, defines the harmonised requirements for poison centre notifications (PCN) applicable as of 1 January 2021\*, and implements the use of UFI numbers to unambiguously identify every hazardous chemical mixture. Data can be provided directly to individual national Poison Centres or via the ECHA submissions Portal (which enables submissions to several national Poison Centres all in at one time).

*\* The European Commission has adopted a delegated act, which will postpone the first compliance date for harmonised reporting to poison centres, for mixtures intended for consumer use, from 1 January 2020 to 1 January 2021. [See more](#)*

Prior to Annex VIII of CLP, each national Poison Centre had its own arrangements /requirements, frequently far less comprehensive than those required under Annex VIII - so the decision was made to allow a transition period before full implementation of the Annex VIII regime.

From the current amendments to Annex VIII, the deadlines for submissions under Annex VIII are:

1 January 2021:

Newly marketed products intended for Consumer and/or Professional users only

1 January 2024:

Newly marketed products intended for Industrial users only

1 January 2025:

All products already marketed prior to adoption of Annex VIII

### Who is the UK National body?

National Poisons Information Service

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### What is the UK National Body's role?

The UK National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) is the UK Department of Health approved, and Public Health England commissioned, national service that provides expert advice on all aspects of acute and chronic poisoning.

The role of the National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) is to reduce the burden of healthcare associated with poisoning by the provision of rapidly available, consistent and evidence-based advice to front-line NHS healthcare professionals. The purpose of this advice is to facilitate optimal clinical management of patients with confirmed or suspected poisoning and those who are (or may be) exposed to medicines or other potential poisons during pregnancy. Where toxicity is low, NPIS offers advice to minimise unnecessary hospital attendances and admissions.

The National Poison Information Service does not accept enquiries from the public but supports healthcare professionals.

### **Will the Poison Centre regulation continue to apply after the UK has left the European Union?**

The UK Government has stated that it will continue to follow the European Union chemical regulation over the short-term but will reserve the right to diverge over the longer-term.

Importers of chemical mixtures into the European Union will have to continue to abide by the EU Poison Centre requirement as it applies to the European Union. This could include customers, distributors or end users of chemical products, substances or mixtures supplied by UK companies and exported from the UK. For UK exporters marketing into EU-27 countries, it may be that they prefer to still submit data into the EU/ECHA system on behalf of their EU-27 distribution chain, rather than providing detailed composition data to their customers -and this could be done via an EU-27 -based Only Representative arrangement.

The pre- Annex VIII Poison Centre requirements for the UK made submission of data to NPIS voluntary. From the existing draft Brexit SI's related to chemicals regulations, there are no specific details referring to the adoption of CLP Annex VIII requirements with the new UK regulations.

### **How do I use the Poison Centre?**

Under Annex VIII, companies manufacturing, marketing or placing hazardous chemical mixtures on the UK market will have to lodge the formulation for their products with the national appointed body. This is in addition to registering the chemical products, substance or mixtures with the relevant authority under REACH, BPR or CLP regulations.

### **Where do I find the latest information on the European Union Poison Centre Regulation?**

The European Union Poison Centre regulation is managed through the European Chemicals Agency ECHA, based in Finland. You can find more information on news and updates on ECHA's Poison Centre pages on their website at <https://poisoncentres.echa.europa.eu/>, [including a briefing leaflet and a full list of all of the national Poison Centre organisations.](#)