

Factsheet

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The public Classification and Labelling (C&L) Inventory

The public C&L Inventory is a central database containing classification and labelling information about notified substances available on the EU market. It also provides a list of substances that are categorised as having harmonised classification and labelling according to Annex VI of the CLP Regulation.

NOTIFICATION TO THE C&L INVENTORY

All substances on the EU market on 1 December 2010 should have been notified before the 3 January 2011 and new substances should be notified within one month of their placement on the market. Currently, ECHA has received well over five million notifications for more than 100 000 substances and the database grows every day.

The CLP Regulation¹ requires all importers and manufacturers of hazardous substances placed on the EU market and all substances subject to registration under the REACH Regulation to notify the classification and labelling of their substances to ECHA within one month of its placement on the market. In return, ECHA shall maintain a Classification and Labelling (C&L) Inventory holding all the notified information and make certain elements of the database publicly accessible (the public C&L Inventory).

INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC C&L INVENTORY

The content of the public C&L Inventory is defined by the CLP Regulation. This consists of certain elements of the substance identity and all classification and labelling (C&L) elements. The EC name and number of all EINECS substances and wherever possible, all other substances in the EC inventory, are published. In addition, where a substance is classified in those hazard classes referred to in Article 119(1) of the REACH Regulation (which covers most CLP hazard classes) by at least one notifier, then the C&L elements from all notifications for that substance are published. The IUPAC name is only published from notifications which classify in the hazard classes referred to in Article 119(1).

The following information is not included in the public C&L Inventory:

- contact details of the notifier;
- the composition and impurity profile of the substances.

In certain cases, even when a substance is notified as hazardous (according to Article 119(1)) the IUPAC name may fall under a confidentiality claim and therefore is not published. The harmonised classification and labelling for substances (Tables 3.1 and 3.2 of Annex VI to the CLP Regulation) is included in the inventory.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures.

USING THE PUBLIC INVENTORY

The public Inventory provides multiple search options based on both substance identity and classification. A user interested in a particular substance or group of substances can search using the full or partial EC name, the CLP Annex VI Index name and IUPAC name or the full or partial EC, CAS or CLP Annex VI Index numbers.

For ease of use, the classifications have been separated into physical, health and environmental hazards and the user can choose either abbreviated hazard class and category codes (e.g. Acute Tox. 4) or hazard statement Codes (e.g. H302). Combining the substance identity and classification elements will further refine the search results.

Search results are provided based on substances. By selecting one substance from the results, the user is guided to a summary page listing first the harmonised entries (if any) and then the aggregated classifications from the notifications. A further selection of a particular aggregated classification will provide the detailed view of the aggregated notification.

INFORMATION STRUCTURE

The notifications for the same substance are grouped based on the numerical identifiers of the substance. If a harmonised classification and labelling exists for a substance, it is displayed above the notifications. Certain group entries in Annex VI to the CLP Regulation do not have specific EC or CAS numbers associated with them. For such entries, an automatic matching of notifications and harmonised entries can not always be made.

All notifications, which classify the same substance in the same way, have been merged. The number of merged notifications is also indicated. All classification and labelling elements have been taken into account when aggregating except the physical state/form of the substance and any reasons for no classification within a certain hazard class. Those differences, if any, are reflected in the detailed view of the aggregated classification.

The aggregation is carried out automatically, with no manual verification by ECHA. Technical errors during the notification process will result in different aggregations displayed. Notifiers should make every effort to come to an agreement on the classification of their substances unless there are legitimate

reasons for different classifications, such as different compositions or impurity profiles.

In addition to indicating the number of notifiers behind each aggregation, the Inventory flags those classifications derived from a jointly submitted REACH registration dossier.

OUTLOOK

The public C&L Inventory represents the largest database of self- and harmonised (within the EU) classified substances today and is unique in the world in terms of its scope. Its publication constitutes an important step in hazard communication under ECHA responsibilities and may, in the long term, help to improve the safe use of hazardous substances by consumers, professional users and industrial workers.

The improvement of the information stored in the Inventory will occur gradually addressing different steps and requiring a joint effort from all involved parties.

Notifiers are encouraged to check the classifications for their substances on the Inventory and update their notifications if necessary. All notifications can be readily updated using the online tool provided in REACH-IT, regardless of the initial notification tool (e.g. IUCLID, bulk tool) used. The content of the public C&L Inventory is updated on a regular basis. New notifications and updates to existing ones may not be visible immediately after submission but will be included in the following data refresh.

For further information and support:

- Q&A on the public C&L Inventory
- Technical Questions and Answers on C&L Notifications
- Practical Guide 7: How to Notify Substances to the Classification & Labelling Inventory (available in 22 languages)