



# Introduction into EU POISON CENTRES NOTIFICATION (PCN)

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take care of your  
notifications**

## EU HARMONISATION OF POISON CENTRES NOTIFICATION (PCN)

Poison Centre Notification is a legal obligation neither covered by REACH nor by current CLP C&L Inventory notifications.

Importers and downstream users placing hazardous mixtures on the EU market have to notify such mixtures by providing required information to the relevant appointed body, e.g. a national Poison Centre. A notification has to be submitted in each Member State where the mixture is intended to be made available on the market.

Annex VIII of the CLP regulation establishes compliance deadlines for Poison Centres notifications depending on the type of their use:

- consumer and professional use (by 1 Jan. 2021), or
- industrial use (by 1 Jan. 2024).

The harmonised information requirement aims at enhancing the quality and consistency of emergency health response through making available reliable information on classified mixtures.

### Background

Importers and downstream users placing hazardous mixtures on the EU market must notify required information to the nationally appointed bodies. According to CLP Article 45(4), Annex VIII 'harmonising information relating to emergency health response' was added to CLP in March 2017.

This amendment was triggered by the fact that the interpretation and implementation of Art. 45 varied between the European countries. Therefore, a harmonized format for notifications was created along with a Unique Formula Identifier (UFI) on the product label allowing the unequivocal identification of the concerned mixture(s) in case of a reported emergency.

Please visit our website for more information:

[www.https://www.scc-gmbh.de/eu-services/chemicals/poison-centre-notification](https://www.scc-gmbh.de/eu-services/chemicals/poison-centre-notification)

or contact one of our experts:

[scc@scc-gmbh.de](mailto:scc@scc-gmbh.de)

## What chemical mixtures should be notified?

A product must be notified when all of the following conditions are met:

- **It is a mixture**, as defined by CLP Article 2(8): “a mixture or solution composed of two or more substances”; and
- **It is classified as hazardous**, on the basis of its toxicological or physical-chemical effects, as stated in CLP Article 45(1); and
- **It is placed on the EU Community 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.”

By November 2020, the EU has published two amendments of Annex VIII to help industry-specific and cross-industry groups to meet the requirements.

Depending on individual Member States, the industry can start using the harmonised information requirements before the relevant compliance dates. For this purpose, the users can apply the Poison Centres Notification (PCN) format and editor versions of the tools, along with the Unique Formula Identifier (UFI) generator. There is also a Q&A column on ECHA’s Poison Centres website providing continuous updates.

Some companies are expecting to submit more than 100,000 poison centres notifications under the new system. The EU Commission is estimating that the total number could be up to 20 million per year, the steady figure resulting from the necessity to update the notification whenever changes are made to the initially notified composition.

**Are you well prepared for PCN? – Don’t hesitate to contact us if you want to enhance your flexibility and secure your supply chains in Europe!**

For more information, please contact SCC at [scc@scc-gmbh.de](mailto:scc@scc-gmbh.de) – Thank you.

