



National Institute for Public Health  
and the Environment  
*Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport*

National Poisons Information Centre  
**Product Notification to the National  
Poisons Information Centre**

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## National Poisons Information Centre

The main task of the National Poisons Information Centre (Nationaal Vergiftigingen Informatie Centrum (NVIC)) is to inform medical personnel (physicians, veterinarians, pharmacists) about symptoms and treatment of acute intoxications. The NVIC information service can be contacted by medical personnel 24 hours per day, throughout the year, via the emergency number +31(0)30 274 8888. To perform this task adequately the NVIC depends on knowledge of the exact composition and toxicological properties of products to which consumers can be exposed. The NVIC forms part of the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM).

## European legislation

Article 45 of CLP Regulation 1272/2008 (that will replace the Dangerous Preparations Directive 1999/45/EC) states that each European Member State must appoint an authority where information regarding hazardous mixtures must be notified. The appointed authority is responsible for supplying information intended for medical purposes of a curative and preventive nature.

## Dutch legislation

In the Netherlands, the NVIC is appointed in the Food and Drug Act 'Registration of Product Information' (*Staatsblad 1996, no. 38*) as the competent authority to receive information of hazardous products. Those introducing hazardous products on the market (both existing and new) are obliged to notify information with the NVIC. Additionally, changes in name and changes in composition need to be notified. Notification of date of market withdrawal is voluntary. The implementation of the Act within industry will be checked by the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority.

With several Dutch trade organisations new guidelines on the required composition information and on the product information format were established (see the next two paragraphs). These guidelines came into force with the Food and Drug Act 'Warenwetregeling elektronische productnotificatie' (*Staatscourant Nr. 15507* of 15 Oktober 2009).

Product information notified to the NVIC will be treated in strict confidence and will not be communicated to third parties. The registration of product information is still free of charge.

Information of products not classified as hazardous can be notified on a voluntary basis.

## New notification guidelines

An agreement was reached on both the required format of the product information and about the requirements on the composition of the notified products.

On the required format it was decided to accept:

- a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) with
- additional information on the composition of the product (see below for requirements)

The MSDS and the additional information can either be supplied as two separate documents or combined in an improved MSDS. It is obligatory that these documents meet the requirements on composition and concentration as indicated below. Furthermore, all these documents can only be supplied as PDF-files. Other file formats (Word, Excel, etc.) will not be accepted.

On the requirements on the composition of the product it was decided to stress the importance of detailed information but to also define the minimum requirements. Companies should be aware that detailed information on the composition of a product is essential to perform an adequate risk assessment in case of an accidental intoxication with their product.

### *Optimal requirements:*

- Exact composition: all ingredients without concentration threshold
- Exact concentrations of all ingredients

### *Alternative requirements:*

- Exact composition: all ingredients without concentration threshold
- Exact concentration for ingredients in hazard class: T<sup>+</sup>, T, C, Xi, Xn  
Translated in EU-GHS this corresponds to all health hazard classes.  
Defined concentration ranges (see below) for the other ingredients

### *Minimum requirements:*

- Exact composition: all ingredients without concentration threshold
- Defined concentration ranges:  
<0,1%, 0,1-1%, 1-5%, 5-10%, 10-20%, 20-30%, 30-50%, 50-75%, 75-100%  
Alternative: <0,1%, 0,1-1%, 1-5%, 5-10%, 10-15%, 15-30%, 30-60%, 60-100%

The internationally accepted chemical names for the ingredients must be used with the corresponding CAS-numbers. Mentioning EINECS numbers and the hazard classification of each ingredient is optional, but valued.

In exceptional cases products can be notified in groups. For example with paints of different colours and almost the same composition.

## Notification procedure

For the notification of product information the NVIC has developed a secure website: [www.productnotification.nl](http://www.productnotification.nl)

With this secure website a product upload list can be easily created by entering the product names, a reason for notification (new, mutation, expired) and adding the PDF-files by browsing. More detail on the use of the website can be found in de FAQ part after logging in.

To receive a user account the NVIC can be contacted by e-mail: [nvic-apr@rivm.nl](mailto:nvic-apr@rivm.nl)  
Please provide the following information:

Contact information (postal/residence address, telephone, fax, contact person) of:

- Company that brings the product to the market (mentioned on the product label)
- Company that notifies the product information

Note: this will often be one and the same company.

E-mail address on which to receive the account information.

You will receive a login name and a one-time password. After logging in with this one-time password you will be requested to choose your own password. You can then start with the product notification.

If a company notifies product information for several different companies then multiple user accounts can be generated for every combination.

### Bulk product notification:

Only for a first-time notification of a large number of products the NVIC accepts the product information as PDF-files on CD-ROM/DVD or by E-mail. The files must be accompanied by an overview with information on product names, reason of notification and accompanying PDF-files in a specific format (CSV-file or TXT-file). Please contact the NVIC for the requirements on the specific structure and format of this overview.

After this bulk notification the product information can only be kept up to date by using the website.

## Notification of Product Information of pesticides

Notification of product information of plant protection products (according to the Dangerous Preparations Directive 1999/45/EC) and biocidal products (according to article 23 of the Biocides Directive 98/8/EC) with the NVIC is a legal obligation. This is implemented in National legislation by the latest corrigendum (*Staatsblad 2004, nr. 417*) to the Food and Drug Act 'Registration of Product Information'. According to the Pesticides Act 1962 product information also has to be deposited at the Board for the authorisation of plant protection products and biocides (CTGB). The CTGB will transfer the product information to the NVIC thereby fulfilling the legal obligation.

### **Notification of Product Information of cosmetic products**

Cosmetic product information can be notified electronically by the use of the application Sysdecos (which generates KOS files) and is a much used application on a European scale. Only version 2.1 (or higher) has been adapted for Dutch notification and KOS files made by earlier versions can not be processed by the NVIC. The application can be obtained through the Dutch Cosmetics Association (+31(0)30 6049480, [www.ncv-cosmetica.nl](http://www.ncv-cosmetica.nl)). Notification of cosmetic products is not a legal obligation.

### **The use of the NVIC emergency phone number on product labels**

The NVIC phone number may **not** be used on product labels because the NVIC only provides information to physicians, veterinarians, pharmacists and other medical personnel in cases of acute intoxications and not to the general public.

### **The use of the NVIC emergency telephone number on MSDS**

The NVIC emergency telephone number may be used on the MSDS if it includes the sentence: *'Only for the purpose of informing medical personnel in cases of accidental intoxications'*.

The use of the NVIC emergency telephone number on the MSDS is only of use if the product information is notified to the NVIC in accordance with the requirements as described in this document.

### **Introduction of products on the Dutch market**

The NVIC is not a general, governmental organized, product registration institute, where all products introduced to the Dutch market have to be registered (e.g. to get a product number, like in Germany). For specific questions regarding the introduction of products on the Dutch market you can contact the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, [www.vwa.nl](http://www.vwa.nl) or your own branch organization.

### **Contact**

For further information you can contact the NVIC by telephone (+31(0)88 755 8561), by postal mail (RIVM, NVIC, PO BOX 1, 3720 BA Bilthoven, The Netherlands) or E-mail ([nvic-apr@rivm.nl](mailto:nvic-apr@rivm.nl)).