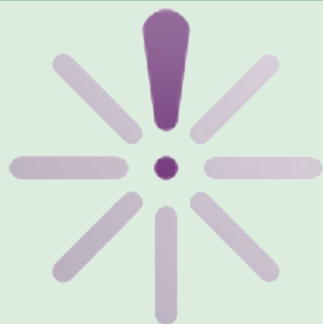


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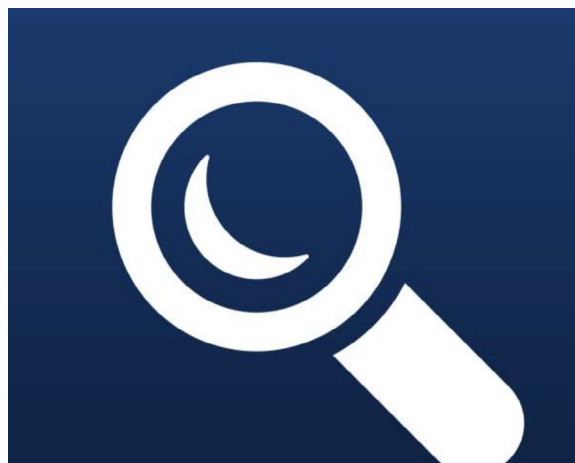
07.03.19



## Poison Centres **Guidance**

### **ECHA Annex VIII to the CLP Guidance, PCN Portal and Conference**

Only a few weeks ago we understood the final draft Guidance on Annex VIII to the CLP, on harmonised information related to emergency health response was still under consultation and would not be published until after the Competent Authorities' for REACH and CLP (CARACAL) meeting on 19/20 March 2019. Consequently, during the meeting with Vice-Director General of DG GROW, Antti Peltomäki and further DG GROW representatives, EMO objected against the views that industry could already start the implementation, while different interpretations of some parts of Annex VIII persisted and not even the ECHA guidance was adopted (see [EMO Newsflash 03/2019](#)).



Much to the EMO secretariats' surprise therefore, on 5 March 2019 **ECHA published a "first final version" of the [Guidance on Annex VIII to the CLP](#)**. This interesting choice of words as well as the note to the reader on page 3 indicate the publication is in parts premature and a **"second final version" is to be expected once CARACAL has reached an agreement** inter alia on the definition of duty holders and obligations for distributors. The EMO secretariat expects that **only then**, when the revised version has been adopted, **the guidance will be available in all official languages**, as announced. **For the time being, the [Guidance on Annex VIII to the CLP](#) is only available in English.**

Recently ECHA also officially announced the **[first version of the Poison Centre Notification \(PCN\) portal to go live on 24 April 2019](#)**. This first version will allow interactively prepare the so-called dossiers containing the harmonized information related to emergency health response in the International Uniform Chemical Information Database version 6 format (IUCLID 6). According to the current planning, **a second version of the portal allowing a system-to-system integration shall follow in the fourth quarter of 2019.**

The availability of the first PCN portal had been announced and postponed several times before. The publishing of the go live date on the Poison Centre website of ECHA as well as an **[ECHA conference on 21/22 May 2019 partly dedicated to a hands-on training](#)** on how to notify hazardous chemicals to poison centres are however reliable signs that the portal will be available end of April 2019.

The [registration to the ECHA conference](#), which will take place in Helsinki, **is open**. Experts interested in attending the conference in person are advised to register a.s.a.p. as seats are limited and usually quickly booked out. Those **experts who cannot attend in person** or fail to register in time **may follow the event online**.

Even though changes to the guidance and even to the legal text are still expected **EMO recommends the HSE experts in the companies to study the guidance and to practice working with the PCN portal as soon as it goes live**, especially before attending or following the ECHA conference with the hands-on training. Even if companies may later likely use software using the system-to-system interface of the portal, **the practical exercise with the interactive PCN version will be helpful to identify the kind of information that needs to be gathered and understand the steps to be followed to successfully prepare a dossier**. This exercise and experience will be useful even if – as **EMO continues to hope and engage for** – the European Commission proposes a **postponement of applicability dates** (see [EMO Newsflash 03/2019](#)).



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