Overview of studies in the context of a commission proposal on poison centre information (Art. 45 CLP Regulation)

Four studies have been launched or are about to be launched by the Commission services in charge of CLP Regulation, on to the harmonization of information relating to emergency health purposes (Article 45 CLP Regulation).

(1) Study to support the harmonisation of the information to be submitted to poison centres, according to article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation) (Costs and benefits study)
In 2014 the Commission services in charge for CLP launched a study to estimate the costs and benefits of a harmonised notification system of data to be transmitted to Poison centres. The final study report was presented and discussed at Caracal 17 and it is downloadable at the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/chemicals/poison-centres/index_en.htm

(2) Feasibility study on interlinked databases, format and basic application to facilitate exchange of information between Poison Centres, according to Article 45 (4) of EC Regulation No 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation)
End of 2014, the Commission services in charge for CLP launched a study to facilitate the exchange of information between databases run by national/regional poison centres and appointed bodies. In particular the objectives of the study are to provide the Commission with:

- an harmonised data submission in XML format following agreed XML Schema Definition (XSD),
- a basic application for input of data in the defined format, and
- an analysis of options for a secure data exchange between MS Appointed Bodies.

The study started with the collection of information in a structured way on all existing databases in terms of capabilities, IT specifications, amount of data, specific needs etc.. In February 2015 a survey was launched, and a workshop was organized end of April 2015. The final report is expected to be available by Mid November 2015.

The final report will describe and analyse the existing software under current national notification systems, the technical specifications for a common XML harmonised reporting format with the related XML Schema Definition (XSD) and the basic application to input data.

(3) Study on analysis, development and testing of the Unique Formula Identifier (UFI) for information to be submitted to appointed bodies, according to article 45 (4) of EC regulation No 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation)

As part of the discussion on the way to implement Art. 45(4) CLP, a proposal was made to introduce a Unique Formula Identifier (UFI). The UFI creates an unambiguous link between a notified formulation and a particular mixture placed on the EU market. This will allow poison centres to identify the responsible company and composition of the product in case of an emergency call. A first version of an IT-tool to create UFIs already exists.

The purpose of the study is to support the establishment of an electronic version of a Unique Formula Identifier (UFI) to be used in the submission of information related to the chemical composition of hazardous mixtures. The study will:

- provide an analysis of the available options for a secure and unambiguous identification of the mixture of concern via the UFI and design and development of a software for the generation of the UFI. This will be done on the basis of the existing version already available on-line, with adaptations as appropriate;
- identify the IT resources needed to host the software, in a performant and secured manner, on a website, and to maintain it fully operational under the expected load and to test its robustness;
- identify potential interactions with the harmonised XML format for data submission to Poison Centres and with the national/regional poison centres databases;
- provide guidance and tutorials for the UFI generator users with a particular attention to SMEs.

The study will be launched in the coming weeks. The final results will be available by end of 2016.

(4) Study on a product categorisation system for information to be submitted to appointed bodies, according to Article 45(4) of EC Regulation No 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation)

As part of the discussion on the way to implement Art. 45(4) CLP, it was suggested that hazardous mixtures should be categorised by the importers and downstream users, using a Product Categorisation System, still to be developed. The purpose of this categorisation
system will be to allow appointed bodies to statistically assess poison incidents with the aim to formulate preventive measures. The study will:

- analyse existing Product Categorisation Systems (PCS) in EU Member States and their suitability for the submission of information according to Art. 45 CLP Regulation;
- design and develop a European PCS on the basis of existing systems, including conversion tables for the existing systems;
- identify working procedures for maintenance and regular update of the European PCS in the framework of the submission of information to appointed bodies. Moreover, the study shall provide guidance and tutorials for the use of the PCS, paying particular attention to SMEs.

The study will be launched in the coming weeks. The final results will be available by end of 2016.