

Toxicity measures the degree to which a substance is capable of causing damage to living organisms. Toxic substances can damage human health or the natural environment.

Under [European Union \(EU\)](#) legislation, hazardous chemicals are subdivided into toxicity classes according to 'Risk Phrases' assigned to individual substances, [Regulation \(EC\) No 1272/2008](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (amending and repealing [Directive 548/1967/EEC](#) and [Directive 45/1999/EC](#) , and amending [Regulation \(EC\) No 1907/2006](#)).

The five toxicity classes, beginning with the most dangerous one, are:

- [carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic](#) chemicals;
- chronic toxic chemicals;
- very toxic chemicals;
- toxic chemicals;
- chemicals classified as harmful.

Further information

- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1272/2008](#)

Related concepts

- [REACH](#)

Statistical data

- [Chemicals production statistics](#)
- [Chemicals production and consumption statistics](#)