THIS WEEK IN HELPDESK

Generic product identifiers

September 2020

This is what companies have been asking the Poison Centre Team this week about using generic product identifiers (GPI) for poison centre notifications.

Image credit: Alex Kondratiev

Background

Notifiers can generically identify components if their only use is either a 'perfume' or 'colouring agent', provided they are not classified for any health hazard and adhere to concentration thresholds of 5% and 25% respectively. Both substance and mixture in mixture components can be flagged as a 'GPI', though a notification can only contain each GPI type once.

Changes to GPI in the 1st and 2nd Annex VIII amendment

Originally, the GPI was allowed to be used for the functions 'Perfume', 'Fragrance' and 'Colouring agent'. As a result of the first Annex VIII amendment, the function 'Fragrance' was dropped to avoid confusion with the other GPI 'perfumes'. In the upcoming 2nd amendment to Annex VIII, GPI will have a name change to '**Generic component identifier**'.

What are the benefits of using a GPI?

If a component meets the criteria for GPI, then the name (and other identifiers) of the component can be omitted and simply referred to, for example, as 'Perfume' or 'Colouring agent'. In addition, using the GPI can conceal the concentration of such components to within the concentration thresholds. Note also, that some validation rules are less stringent for GPI components, for example, linking to a 'reference substance' dataset is not required.

Other notable benefits of the GPI flag allows the submitter to potentially cover multiple perfume or colouring agent components in a mixture under the respective GPI label. This may also benefit a notifier who has several mixtures which differ only with regards to the GPI used, thus multiple mixtures can be 'grouped' into a single submission.

How to report grouped GPI components with different physical hazards?

If a GPI component has any physical hazards, they must be reported in the notification. However, where multiple components have been grouped as a single GPI, and different classifications for physical hazards exist for each component, these should be included in the same classification record in the relevant dataset.

Can TiO_2 be indicated as a GPI?

Discussions are still ongoing regarding whether or not titanium dioxide can be covered by a GPI following the entry into force of the 14th ATP (October 2021). If not, the standard requirements will apply with regards to identification and concentration ranges. We will provide more details at a later date.