

The European product categorisation system: A practical guide

June 2018

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1. Introduction

1.1 What is this practical guide about?

This guide offers support to industry concerning the harmonisation of information for the purposes of Article 45 and Annex VIII to the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008)¹ with reference to the European product categorisation system (EuPCS) published on ECHA's Poison Centres website². The particular focus areas of the guide are:

- explaining the principles and purpose of the EuPCS;
- providing detailed descriptions of individual product categories; and
- highlighting those product categories where special consideration is required.

The guide does not cover the submission process or requirements other than the product category. For more information on IT tools supporting the preparation and submission of information, consult ECHA's Poison Centres website. More information about the submission requirements can be found in the Guidance on harmonised information relating to emergency health responses³.

1.2 Background

On 20 January 2009, the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation entered into force, requiring manufacturers, importers or downstream users of substances or mixtures to classify, label and package their hazardous chemicals appropriately before placing them on the market. Article 45(1) states that the EU Member States shall appoint a body for receiving information on hazardous mixtures (including the full chemical composition) to enable the formulation of preventive and curative measures for the purposes of an emergency health response. In addition, Article 45(4) states that the Commission shall carry out a review to assess the possibility of harmonising this information.

In 2013, the review⁴ of the Commission services according to Article 45(4) of the CLP Regulation identified, among other information requirements, the need to develop a harmonised product categorisation system to support the submission of information. The harmonised system could assist in ensuring comparability of statistical analyses of poisoning incidents at EU level with the aim to identify where improved risk management measures may be needed. In 2016, a further study was commissioned⁵ to examine existing national product categorisation systems for the development of a draft proposal for harmonisation. The harmonised system was identified to be used by industry for the preparation of information to be submitted according to Article 45, and potentially by Member States for comparable statistical analysis of incidents within the EU.

In April 2017, the Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/542 came into force, amending the CLP

¹ CLP Regulation: <https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/clp/legislation>.

² ECHA's Poison Centres website: <https://poisoncentres.echa.europa.eu/>.

³ The Guidance is expected to be finalised in December 2018 – please check the 'Support' page of ECHA's Poison Centres website for more information: <https://poisoncentres.echa.europa.eu/support>.

⁴ Review of the Commission services according to Article 45(4) of the CLP Regulation: <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/chemicals/poison-centres/>.

⁵ Study on a Product Categorisation System for information to be submitted to poison centres: <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/chemicals/poison-centres/>.

Regulation by adding Annex VIII⁶ on harmonised information relating to emergency health response. The new annex obliges importers and downstream users to submit information relating to hazardous mixtures placed on the EU market if classified for health or physical effects. With reference to the European product categorisation system (EuPCS), Annex VIII stipulates that the “European product categorisation system is to facilitate the transmission of information on the intended use of a mixture and support the statistical analysis of related poisoning cases”.

In 2017, ECHA established a focus group to finalise the EuPCS. This group was established with stakeholders from Member States (appointed bodies and poison centres), industry associations and the Commission. As a result of this work, a first version of the EuPCS was published on 20 March 2018 on ECHA’s Poison Centres website⁷.

2. Principles of the EuPCS

2.1 Intended use

According to Annex VIII, the intended use of a mixture shall be described in accordance with a harmonised product categorisation system (Annex VIII to CLP, Part A, section 3.4) and forms part of the submission requirements (Part B, section 2.4). Information on other elements, such as chemical composition, physical properties and user type or packaging, is required along with the product category to form a complete submission. Therefore, the product categorisation system should not be based on these additional elements.

- ❗ When preparing a submission of information for a hazardous mixture, the submitter must assign a product category which best defines the intended use of that mixture which will be placed on the market.

2.2 Scope of the EuPCS

The EuPCS detailed in this guide covers only product categories for those mixtures classified as hazardous based on their health or physical effects under Article 45 of the CLP Regulation. Product categories excluded from the EuPCS are those exempted from CLP obligations in accordance with Article 1(5), such as medicinal products, veterinary medicinal products, cosmetic products, medical devices, food or feeding stuffs. In addition, EuPCS product categories exclude mixtures exempt from Annex VIII to CLP, such as gases under pressure and explosives.

- ❗ The EuPCS categories may be used for the voluntary submission of information for mixtures that do not require a notification, e.g. detergents that are not classified as hazardous, or hazardous for the environment only.

⁶ Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/542 amending Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures by adding an Annex on harmonised information relating to emergency health response (Annex VIII): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1490275739734&uri=CELEX:32017R0542>.

⁷ The EuPCS: <https://poisoncentres.echa.europa.eu/eu-product-categorisation-system>

3. Structure of the EuPCS

3.1 Which categories can be selected?

The EuPCS is a five-level hierarchical tree structure containing close to 250 product categories. Parent categories branch down to the child level and a selection of a category can only be made at the lowest level in the hierarchy. It may be that the lowest level for some products occurs at the fifth level (e.g. in the case of PC-CLN-10.4, Figure 1), while for others, the lowest level occurs already at the first level (e.g. with category 'F – Mixtures for further formulation', section 3.2).

 A category can only be selected if it is not further subcategorised.

3.2 EuPCS category codes

The EuPCS category codes are alphanumerical and the categories are structured to enable the easy identification of the type of product or product group based on the abbreviated letters of the product group at the third level – for example, 'PCCLN' for cleaning products, 'PCADH' for adhesive products, 'PCPNT' for paint products. The structure of the category codes at the fourth and fifth level are usually numerical (Figure 1), or they may be abbreviated to 'OTH' ('other'), as in the case of PC-CLN-OTH (see section 4.3), for example.

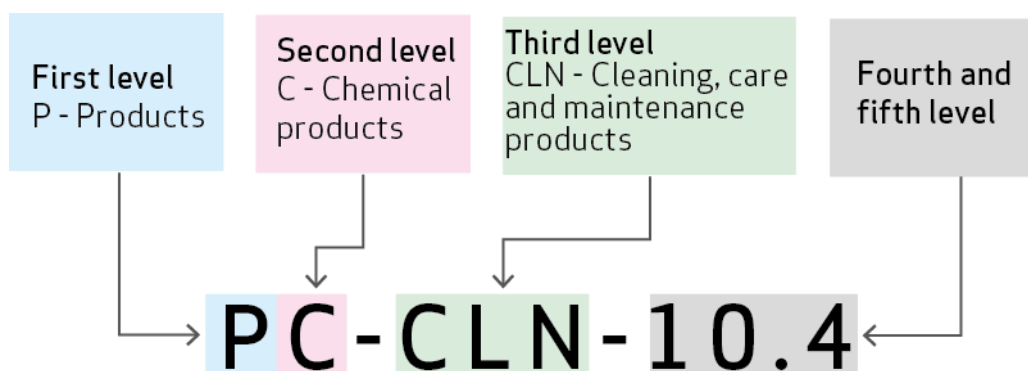


Figure 1: An illustration of the EuPCS category code elements to the fifth level.

3.3 End use products vs mixtures for further formulation

The EuPCS makes a clear distinction between the two first-level categories based on whether a mixture is placed on the market for an end use (i.e. a final mixture) or whether it is intended to be used only for formulating other mixtures.

The category '**P – Products**' reflects **end use products**. End use means the use of a mixture as a last step before the end-of-life of the mixture, namely before the mixture (or each of its components) is emitted to waste streams or the environment, is included into an article⁸ or is consumed in a process by reaction during use (including intermediate use)⁹.

The category '**F – Mixtures for further formulation**' reflects mixtures that are only used for

⁸ An object which during production is given a special shape, surface or design which determines its function to a greater degree than does its chemical composition – Article 2(9) of the CLP Regulation.

⁹ Adapted from the *Guidance on information requirements and chemical safety assessment – Chapter R.12: Use description*: https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13632/information_requirements_r12_en.pdf

further formulation of other mixtures in an industrial setting (i.e. they are not placed on the market for an end use). Category 'F' is not further subcategorised, therefore a selection of this first level category is possible.

Formulation corresponds to specific activities meant to produce a mixture to be put on the market. This means that during formulation, the mixture is transferred and mixed with other mixtures. It corresponds to activities taking place at industrial sites. Mixing activities during end use (or at point of sale) are not considered as formulation¹⁰. Note that it is assumed that formulators, regardless of the size of the company, formulate mixtures in an industrial setting.

⚠ Mixtures with an industrial end use (e.g. in the production of articles) are not considered to fit within the scope of the EuPCS category 'F – Mixtures for further formulation'.

Figure 2 below demonstrates the relationship in the supply chain concerning mixtures for further formulation as well as end use products (e.g. cleaning products, biocides, adhesives, paints, fuels). Mixtures for further formulation are only used by formulators (e.g. a perfume/fragrance mixture used to formulate cleaning products), whereas end use products (e.g. a detergent) may be for consumer, professional and/or industrial end users.

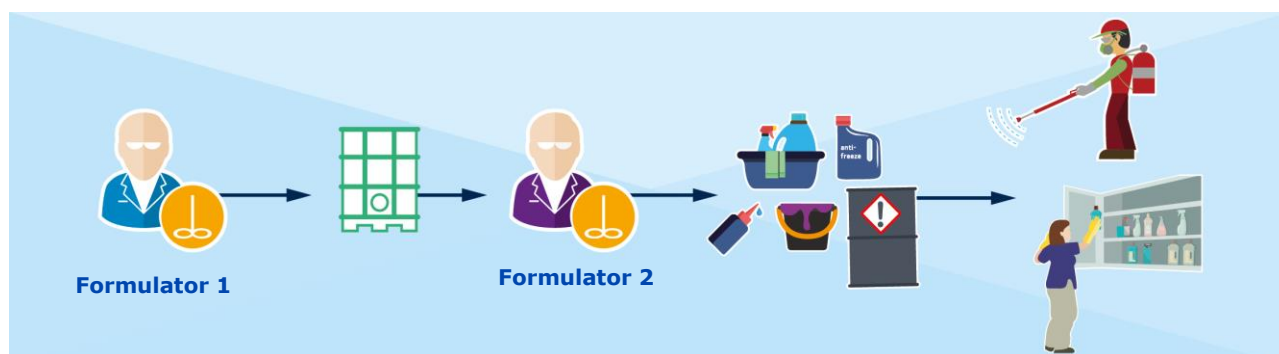


Figure 2: Mixtures for further formulation used to formulate end use products for consumer, professional and/or industrial end users.

For more information on those cases where a mixture could be categorised under categories 'P – Products' and 'F – Mixtures for further formulation', please see section 4.1.

3.4 Chemical, biocidal and plant protection products

While the first level of the EuPCS differentiates between products with an end use and mixtures for further formulation (no end use), the second level distinguishes between chemical products and biocidal and plant protection products. The third level of the system groups the main identified product category areas, e.g. detergents, adhesives and sealants, and paints and coatings (Figure 3). Subcategorisation at the fourth and fifth levels is more detailed, including subdivisions such as laundry detergents for hand washing, adhesives and sealants for household, office or school use, and protective and functional paints and coatings.

¹⁰ Adapted from the *Guidance on information requirements and chemical safety assessment – Chapter R.12: Use description*: https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13632/information_requirements_r12_en.pdf

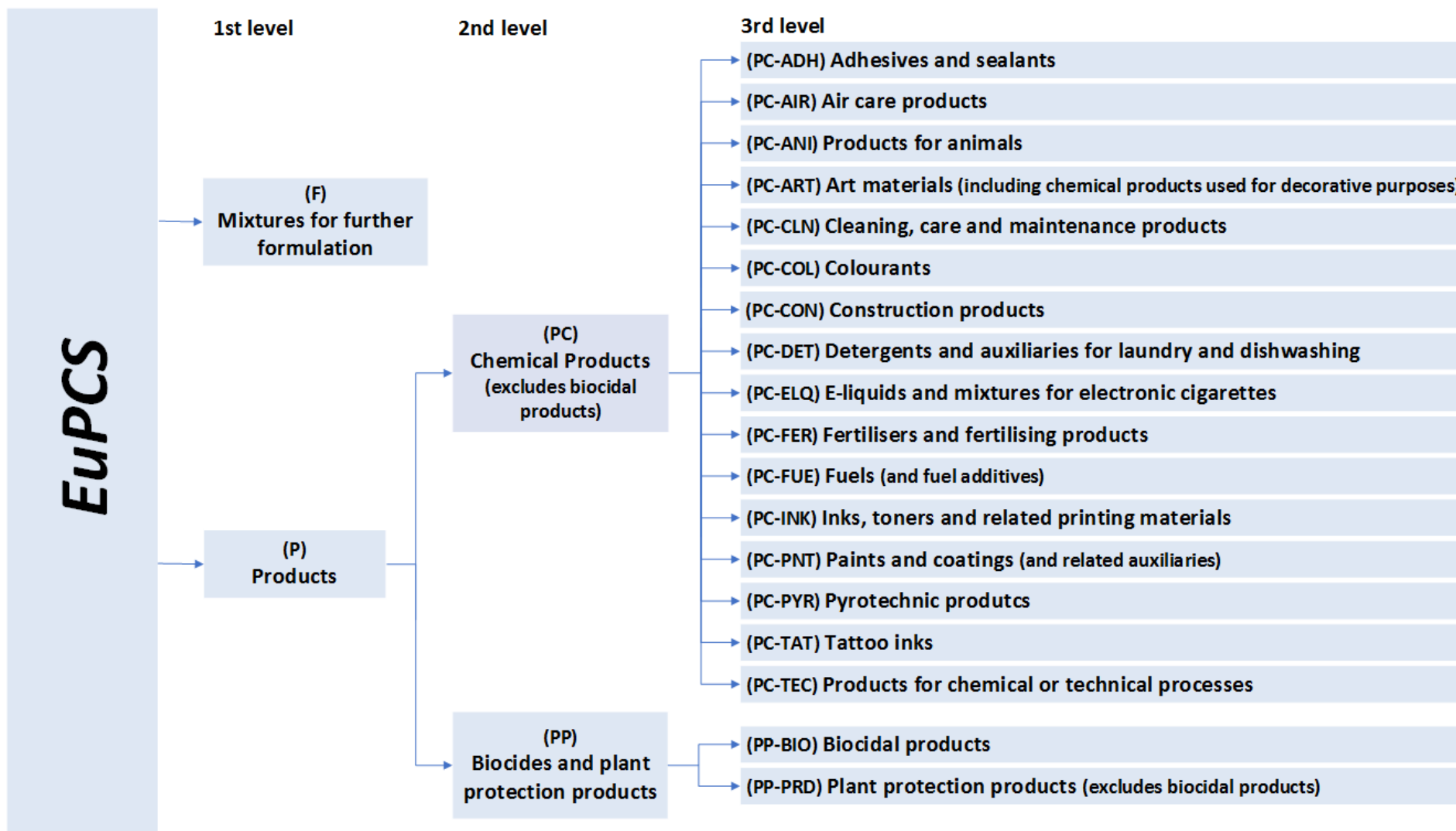


Figure 3: Categorisation of products in the EuPCS to the third level.

4. Selecting the right product category

This section provides guidelines for selecting an intended use for products that may fit multiple intended use categories, biocidal or plant protection products, or in cases where no suitable category exists.

- ❗ If in doubt about the right product category, contact your relevant industry association for further advice.

4.1 Products fitting multiple categories

The selection of a product category is based on the intended use of a product. Selecting multiple product categories for a single product is not possible. In some cases, products may correspond to multiple intended uses. In such cases, the categorisation shall be made according to a single **main intended use**.

For example, consider 2-in-1 products that have two very different (but complementary) intended uses, such as a cleaner coupled with a deodoriser, or a cleaning product for bathrooms and kitchens. It remains at the discretion of the submitter of the information to select the most appropriate category according to their best knowledge and experience (Figure 4).

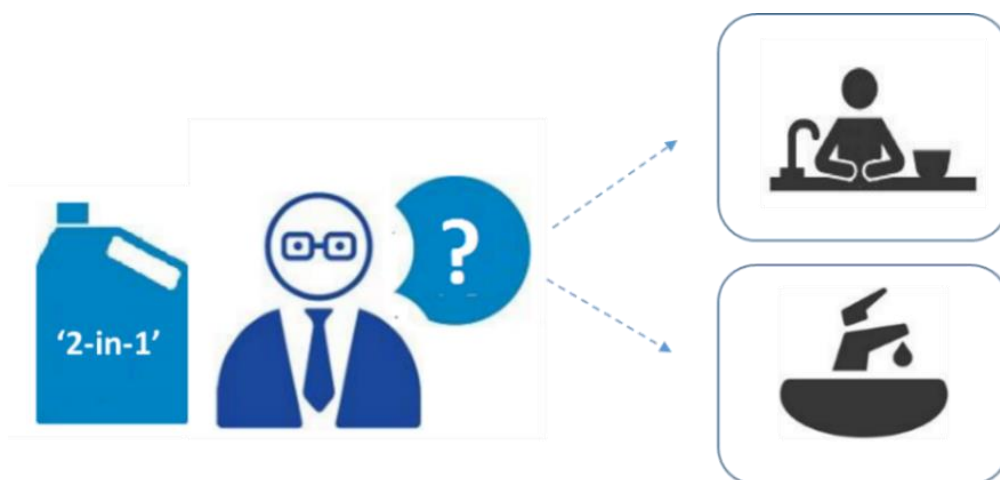


Figure 4: The submitter must determine the main intended use for products fitting multiple categories.

- ⚠ For products that may fit within a subcategory of '**P – Products**' (i.e. have an end use) as well as of '**F – Mixtures for further formulation**', the main intended use should reflect the **end use** category which provides more information for the purposes of providing an emergency health response.

4.2 Biocidal and plant protection products

In some instances, a product may fit multiple product categories where one of the intended uses may be as a biocide or plant protection product. In such cases, the general rule is that if such a product is subject to authorisation according to the Biocidal Product Regulation (BPR)¹¹ or to the Plant Protection Product Regulation (PPPR)¹², the product category reflecting the intended use as a biocide or plant protection product must be selected¹³.

For example, if a disinfecting cleaner for kitchen areas was granted a product authorisation according to the BPR and the product could fit in the category 'PC-CLN-10.1 – Cleaners for kitchen areas' as well as in the category 'PP-BIO-2 – Disinfectants and algacides not intended for direct application to humans or animals', according to the general rule above, the appropriate **biocidal product category** is to be reflected as the main intended use of the disinfecting cleaner.

In the case of a product that contains an active substance but does **not** require an authorisation according to the BPR (i.e. a treated article according to Article 3 of the BPR, that does not have a primary biocidal function itself, such as a decorative paint containing an in-can preservative) or the PPPR, the submitter should determine the main intended use as described in section 4.1.

4.3 When no suitable category exists

In some cases, a suitable product category to describe the intended use may not exist at the lowest level, and the description of the category at the previous level may be better suited to the product, as the concept is wider, for example:

- **At the fourth or fifth level:** It is possible to select one of the 'Other...' categories. The categorisation as 'Other...' is always made referencing the higher category under which the product can be placed (e.g. 'PC-CLN-OTH – Other cleaning, care and maintenance products').
- **At the third level:** Where the intended use of the product cannot be linked to the main product group areas (e.g. adhesives, detergents, paints), selecting the category '**Chemical products – uncategorised**' (category code PC-UNC) may be an option.



In general, the categories 'Other...' or 'Chemical products – uncategorised' should be used in exceptional cases and only after the submitter has carefully assessed that none of the more specific categories (including those contained in other third-level categories) can describe the intended use of the product.



When the selection of 'Other...' has been made, it is not possible for the submitter to indicate their own specific product category as free text in the submission.

¹¹ Biocidal Product Regulation (EU) No. 528/2012: <https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/biocidal-products-regulation/legislation>.

¹² Plant Protection Product Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32009R1107>.

¹³ Based on the outcome of the 'Product categorisation system' workshop on 13 April 2016 at DG GROW premises in Brussels. In this context, it is mentioned that Member States already have the obligation to report on exposure incidents under the Biocidal Products and Plant Protection Products regulations every five years. This aims to ensure more reliable and comparative reports and statistical analysis.

Contact your relevant industry association and let them know if a suitable product category does not exist for your product. It may also be that there is a need to submit a request for updating the EuPCS (see section 6).

4.4 Differences in assigning a product category in standard and group submissions

Information can be submitted for a single mixture which may reflect either a single product or multiple products (standard submission). Under certain conditions, it is also possible to submit information for multiple but similar mixtures in one submission (i.e. a group submission), if these contain the same components in the same concentration ranges except for certain perfumes or fragrances.

- ❗ According to Annex VIII, all mixtures in a group submission must have the same classification for health and physical hazards and belong to the **same product category**.

The submission format¹⁴ containing the structured information requirements allows the submitter to link individual products in a standard or group submission to specific information elements such as product category, trade name, packaging and a unique formula identifier (UFI). The UFI serves to complement other information used by poison centres (e.g. trade name, product category) to rapidly identify the exact product involved in an incident¹⁵.

- ❗ In all cases, only a single product category can be assigned per product.

For **standard submissions containing multiple products**, it would be reasonable to expect that all products containing the same mixture have the same product category. However, in some cases there may be a need for the submitter to choose a different product category for different products – for instance, the same mixture could be packaged and labelled differently, e.g. as a bathroom cleaner and as a kitchen cleaner.

The submission format offers this kind of flexibility to avoid a duplicate submission being made for the same mixture composition. Nevertheless, given the flexibility, the submitter is recommended to assign a different UFI to each product that has a different product category. The UFI further benefits poison centres by creating an unambiguous link between the submitted mixture information (including the product category) to a specific product on the market.

- ⚠ It is possible to assign a different product category to each product included in a standard submission (for multiple products).

Table 1 below compares the different submission types and allowances for the product category.

¹⁴ The Poison Centres Notification (PCN) format is XML-based and compatible with IUCLID. The format (v.1) is available on ECHA's Poison Centres website: <https://poisoncentres.echa.europa.eu/poison-centres-notification-format>.

¹⁵ More information on the UFI and how to generate one can be found on ECHA's Poison Centres website: <https://poisoncentres.echa.europa.eu/ufi-generator>.

Table 1: Summary of the relationship between product categorisation and standard and group submissions.

Submission type	Mixture composition	Number of products	Product categories per submission	Remarks
Standard – single product	1	1	1	-
Standard – multiple products	1	Multiple	Multiple – each product can be assigned its own product category	If products within the submission are assigned different product categories, it is recommended that they are linked to a different UFI.
Group submission	Multiple 'similar' compositions (excluding perfumes and fragrances)	Multiple, at least one per mixture composition in the group	1	All mixtures must belong to the same product category

5. Product groups

This section presents all the subcategories belonging to the different third-level product groups of the EuPCS¹⁶ (see section 3.4, Figure 3) and offers practical advice for selecting the intended use by clarifying the differences between similar or closely related categories, highlighting exclusions and areas for special consideration, such as overlapping categories.

- Due to seemingly related category labels, it is highly recommended that you read the full EuPCS category description to ensure the selection of the corresponding category for your product.

- Product categories have also been developed under REACH for use description in the context of the registration of chemicals, as detailed in the Guidance on information requirements and chemical safety assessment¹⁷. Annex I to this practical guide proposes corresponding REACH product categories for EuPCS categories, where available.

5.1 Adhesives and sealants (PC-ADH)

This category covers adhesives (including mixtures for multi-component types) and sealants used to fill gaps. Table 2 presents the subcategories for PC-ADH.

¹⁶ The EuPCS is available on ECHA's Poison Centres website at: <https://poisoncentres.echa.europa.eu/es/eu-product-categorisation-system>.

¹⁷ *Guidance on information requirements and chemical safety assessment – Chapter R.12: Use description*: https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13632/information_requirements_r12_en.pdf.

 **The category PC-ADH excludes cement-based adhesives** – see section 5.7, 'Construction products' (PC-CON).

Special consideration should be given to the following subcategory:


 'PC-ADH-8 – Multicomponent adhesives and sealants' includes all products for which the components need to be mixed for immediate use.

Table 2: 'Adhesive and sealants' product subcategories, including EuPCS codes, labels and descriptions.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-ADH*	Adhesives and sealants	An adhesive is a product capable of joining materials by surface bonding (adhesion), where the bond possesses adequate internal strength (cohesion). A sealant is an adhesive product applied to joints in order to fill gaps, mechanically block or protect from, for example, air and water.
PC-ADH-1	Household, office or school use	Products for general use in the home, school, or office environment. Includes craft glues, multi-purpose glues and glue sticks, instant glues, wood glues, contact adhesives, and adhesive sprays.
PC-ADH-2	Building and construction works (except cement-based adhesives)	Adhesives and sealants (gap fillers) for on-site and off-site building works such as new work, maintenance and renovations, e.g. adhesives for wall coverings (including wall paper) and flooring (including carpet, PVS and linoleum, parquet) as well as civil engineering works (bridges, highway, railroad). For cement-based adhesives, see 'Mortars' in 'Construction products'.
PC-ADH-3	Footwear and leather goods	Specialised adhesive and sealant products for leather goods and footwear e.g. for soling/sole attaching, lasting, box toes, counter, repair aftermarket.
PC-ADH-4	Paper- and board-related processes	Specialised adhesive and sealant products intended for processing paper, board and related products such as packaging, labelling, paper-to-board lamination, bookbinding. Does not include paper adhesives primarily for home use, see 'Adhesives and sealants – household, office or school use'.
PC-ADH-5	Transportation industry	Products containing high-performing structural adhesives and sealants, e.g. for motor and railed vehicles, watercraft, aircraft and spacecraft.
PC-ADH-6	Woodworking and joinery (includes putty)	Specialised adhesive and sealant products for cabinet making and furniture manufacturing, including putty. Does not include wood glues primarily for home use, see 'Adhesives and sealants – household, office or school use'.
PC-ADH-7	Assembly line processes	Adhesives and sealants used in assembly line processes, for example, in assembling electronic components, medical applications, toys – excluding already covered categories, e.g. for paper- and board-related processes.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-ADH-8**	Multi-component adhesives and sealants	Products intended to be mixed for immediate use as an adhesive or sealant.
PC-ADH-OTH	Other adhesives and sealants	-

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

** See additional information for this category in section 5.1.

5.2 Air care products (PC-AIR)

This category covers air care products to odourise or deodorise the indoor air environment, including rooms, specific objects or items. Table 3 presents the subcategories of PC-AIR.

 **The category PC-AIR excludes products used as fragrances** – see section 5.17, 'Fragrances'.

Special consideration should be given to the following subcategory:



'PC-AIR-1 – Air care products for indoor rooms (continuous action)' excludes scented lamp oils – see 'Lamp oils' in section 5.11, a subcategory of 'Fuels and fuels additives' (PC-FUE).

Table 3: 'Air care products' subcategories, including EuPCS codes, labels and descriptions.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-AIR*	Air care products	Air care products that serve to odourise or deodorise the indoor rooms (e.g. in homes, offices) or specific objects or items (e.g. shoes, cars, household appliances). Includes incense, candles and matches used to light them. Excludes biocidal products.
PC-AIR-1**	Air care products for indoor rooms (continuous action)	Products that serve to continuously odorise or deodorise indoor air, including diffuser products (excludes incense, and scented candles).
PC-AIR-2	Air care products for indoor rooms (instant action)	Products that serve to instantly odorise or deodorise the indoor air environment.
PC-AIR-3	Air care products for shoes	-
PC-AIR-4	Air care products for vehicles	-

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-AIR-5	Ambient deodorisers (excludes room deodorisers)	Applies to certain products where the only intended use is to deodorise enclosed spaces (e.g. wardrobes, cupboards), household appliances (e.g. refrigerator, vacuum cleaner) or objects (e.g. rubbish bins). Excludes deodorising products in PC-AIR, e.g. for rooms, shoes or vehicles. Does not apply to products used to deodorise textiles or carpet (see 'Textile fresheners/deodorisers') or carpets and upholstery (see 'Deodorisers or fresheners for carpet/upholstery').
PC-AIR-6	Incense	-
PC-AIR-7	Candles – scented and unscented	-
PC-AIR-8	Matches	-
PC-AIR-OTH	Other air care products	Other air care products and ambient deodorisers not already covered.

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

** See additional information for this category in section 5.2.

5.3 Products for animals (PC-ANI)

This category includes products for animal care, including animal feed additives (note that the final feeding products are exempted from CLP, see section 2.2). Table 4 presents the available subcategories of products for animals covered by the CLP Regulation, in particular additives for use in animal nutrition as defined in the regulation concerning such additives¹⁸.



The category PC-ANI excludes biocidal animal care products – see section 5.17, 'Biocidal products'.

Special consideration should be given to the following subcategory:



'PC-ANI-1 – Additives and premixtures for animal feed' excludes products used for further formulation in industrial settings – see section 3.3, 'Mixtures for further formulation'.

Table 4: 'Products for animals' subcategories, including EuPCS codes, labels and descriptions.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-ANI*	Products for animals	Products for animal care including animal feed additives (excluding biocidal products, veterinary medicines, feed materials, compound feed, pet food, and medicated feed).

¹⁸ Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 concerning additives for use in animal nutrition: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32003R1831>.

PC-ANI-1**	Additives and premixtures for animal feed	Products which are intentionally added to feed or water in order to perform a particular function. Excludes food and feeding products.
PC-ANI-2	Animal shampoos and conditioners	Excludes biocidal products.
PC-ANI-OTH	Other products for animals (excluding biocidal products)	-

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

** See additional information for this category in section in 5.3.

5.4 Art materials including chemical products used for decorative purposes (PC-ART)

This category includes paints and other art and craft materials for artistic expression or decorative purposes, including auxiliary materials. Table 5 presents the subcategories of PC-ART.



The category PC-ART excludes:

- paint and related auxiliaries used for architectural decoration – see section 5.13, 'Paints and coatings (and related auxiliaries)' (PC-PNT);
- spray paints – see in section 5.13 'Aerosol paints and coatings', a subcategory in 'Paints and coatings (and related auxiliaries)' (PC-PNT);
- crafting adhesives – see section 5.1, 'Adhesives and sealants' (PC-ADH);
- face and body paints, which are cosmetic products and are therefore out of the scope of Article 45 to the CLP.

Table 5: 'Art materials' product subcategories, including EuPCS codes, labels and descriptions.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-ART*	Art materials (including chemical products used for decorative purposes)	Includes paints and other art and craft materials for artistic expression or decorative purposes, including auxiliary materials. For art and craft adhesives, see 'Adhesives and sealants – household, office or school use'.
PC-ART-1	Artist, craft and hobby paints	Paints for artistic and creative expression and for colouring/decoration of articles (excludes 'finger paints' and graffiti/street art spray paints – see 'Aerosol paints and coatings').
PC-ART-2	Finger paints	Paints for use in play by children, applied using the fingers directly.
PC-ART-3	Crayons, chalks and pastels	Mixtures in solid/compressed form for colouring/drawing in creative expression or play.

PC-ART-4	Auxiliary materials for artists	Auxiliary artists' materials including carriers/vehicles (such as oils), solvents/thinners, special effect agents, tinting mediums, fast and slow drying gels, fixatives and varnishes.
PC-ART-5	Modelling compounds	Creative modelling/sculpting material for adults or children, such as clays (e.g. ceramic, polymeric).
PC-ART-6	Chemical products used for decorative purposes	Includes chemical products such as artificial snow/snow flakes/frost, artificial cobwebs.
PC-ART-OTH	Other art materials (including chemical products used for decorative purposes)	Other art materials and chemical products used for decorative purposes not already covered.

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

5.5 Cleaning, care and maintenance products (excluding biocidal products) (PC-CLN)

This category includes cleaning, care and maintenance products for the intended use areas as presented in Table 6.



This category excludes biocidal products – see section 5.17, 'Biocidal products' (PC- BIO).



This category excludes detergents and auxiliaries for laundry and dishwashing – see section 5.8, 'Detergents and auxiliaries for laundry and dishwashing' (PC-DET).

Special consideration should be given to the following subcategories:



'PC-CLN-4 – **Descaling products**' includes all descaling products, e.g. descalers for kitchen equipment such as coffee makers, kettles, water boilers and heaters. Descalers for toilet and bathroom areas and descalers for dishwasher or washing machines are also included in this subcategory.



'PC-CLN-8 – **Indoor furniture cleaning/care products (excluding leather and upholstery)**' – for leather, see 'Leather cleaning and care products'; for upholstery, see 'Cleaning products for carpet/upholstery' (Table 6).



'PC-CLN-10 – **Kitchen and related cleaning products**' excludes products to remove smoke resin e.g. in exhaust hoods or flues – see subcategory 'Smoke and resin cleaners' (Table 6).



'PC-CLN-12 – **Stone, tile and grout cleaning/care products**' excludes cleaning and care products for kitchen and bathroom tile cleaners – see subcategories 'Cleaners for kitchen areas' and 'Bathroom cleaners' (Table 6).



'PC-CLN-13 – **Floor cleaning/care and maintenance products**' excludes products intended for stone and tile floors, e.g. in kitchen, bathroom or other areas – see subcategory 'Stone, tile and grout cleaning/care products' (Table 6).



'PC-CLN-14.1 – **Cleaning products for carpet/upholstery**' excludes leather upholstery – see subcategory 'Leather – cleaning and care products' (Table 6).

Table 6: 'Cleaning, care and maintenance products (excluding biocidal products)' subcategories, including EuPCS codes, labels and descriptions (where available).

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-CLN*	Cleaning, care and maintenance products (excluding biocidal products)	For detergents, see 'Detergents and auxiliaries for laundry and dishwashing (excludes biocidal products)'. -
PC-CLN-1	Abrasive cleaning products	Products intended to clean surfaces through mechanical action, including, for example, all- or multipurpose cleaners, cleaners for kitchen, toilet or bathroom areas.
PC-CLN-2	All-purpose (or multi-purpose) non-abrasive cleaners	-
PC-CLN-3	Bleaching products for cleaning or laundry use (excludes biocidal products)	-
PC-CLN-4**	Descaling products	-
PC-CLN-5	Drain cleaning products	-
PC-CLN-6	Fireplace and smoke resin cleaners	Includes products for smokehouses and chimneys.
PC-CLN-7	Glass/window/mirror cleaning products (excludes windscreens)	For windscreen cleaners, see 'Windscreen/windshield cleaners'.
PC-CLN-8**	Indoor furniture cleaning/care products (excludes leather and upholstery)	Products for the cleaning and care of indoor wooden and other hard surface furniture. Includes general cleaning products, dust sprays, polishes, conditioners.
PC-CLN-9	Outdoor cleaners (excludes stone, concrete and similar surfaces)	Products for the cleaning and care of, for example, garden furniture, wooden terraces and decks, fences (excludes biocidal products). For cleaning of outdoor pavements, pathways, see 'Heavy duty cleaning products for stone and similar surfaces'.
PC-CLN-10*,**	Kitchen and related cleaning products (excludes biocidal products)	Excludes 'Biocidal products', descalers (see 'Descaling products') and abrasive cleaners (see 'Abrasive cleaning products').
PC-CLN-10.1	Cleaners for kitchen areas	Products including multi-surface cleaners, degreasers and kitchen tile cleaners.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-CLN-10.2	Cleaners for kitchen machinery and equipment	Excludes descalers (see 'Descaling products').
PC-CLN-10.3	Cooking hob cleaning/care products	-
PC-CLN-10.4	Oven, grill or barbecue cleaners	-
PC-CLN-10.OTH	Other kitchen and related cleaning products (excludes biocidal products)	-
PC-CLN-11*	Bathroom and toilet cleaning/care products (excludes biocidal products)	Excludes 'Biocidal products', descalers (see 'Descaling products') and abrasive cleaners (see 'Abrasive cleaning products').
PC-CLN-11.1	Bathroom cleaners	Includes multi-surface and bathroom tile cleaners.
PC-CLN-11.2	Toilet cleaners	Excludes multi-flush agents.
PC-CLN-11.3	Multi-flush products for toilets	Multi-flush agents for cistern or rim use.
PC-CLN-11.OTH	Other bathroom and toilet cleaning/care products (excludes biocidal products)	-
PC-CLN-12*, **	Stone, tile and grout cleaning/care products	Excludes biocidal products as well as for use in kitchen and bathroom areas.
PC-CLN-12.1	Cleaning/care products for stone and tiles – regular use	Cleaning products intended to be used on a regular basis for the maintenance of stone and tile surfaces including floors. Excludes products specifically for kitchen, toilet and bathroom areas.
PC-CLN-12.2	Heavy duty cleaning products for stone and similar surfaces	Products for heavy duty cleaning of stone and similar surfaces, including outdoor pavements, pathways, headstones.
PC-CLN-12.3	Grout cleaners	Product specifically intended to clean grout.
PC-CLN-12.OTH	Other stone, tile and grout cleaning/care products	-
PC-CLN-13*, **	Floor cleaning, care and maintenance products (excludes stone and tile)	Excludes products for stone and tile floors – see 'Stone, tile and grout cleaning/care products'.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-CLN-13.1	Floor cleaning products	Cleaning products intended to be used on a regular basis for the maintenance of floors, including unit-dose capsules. Excludes stone and tile floors – see 'Stone, tile and grout cleaning/care products'.
PC-CLN-13.2	Floor care products, e.g. waxes, emulsions	-
PC-CLN-13.2	Floor strippers	Excludes paint strippers – see 'Paint removers, thinners and related auxiliaries'.
PC-CLN-13.OTH	Other floor cleaning, care and maintenance products (excludes stone and tile)	-
PC-CLN-14*	Carpet and upholstery products	Includes cleaning products for carpet and upholstery.
PC-CLN-14.1**	Cleaning products for carpet/upholstery	-
PC-CLN-14.2	Deodorisers or fresheners for carpet/upholstery	Excludes textile fresheners – see 'Textile fresheners/deodorisers'.
PC-CLN-OTH	Other carpet and upholstery products	-
PC-CLN-15*	Cleaners for specific personal items	-
PC-CLN-15.1	Cleaners for eyewear	Excludes contact lens cleaning solutions.
PC-CLN-15.2	Cleaners for home electronic screens	-
PC-CLN-15.3	Cleaners for musical instruments	-
PC-CLN-15.4	Metal polish/tarnish remover	Includes cleaners for jewellery, silverware and other metals such as brass and copper.
PC-CLN-15.OTH	Other cleaners for specific personal items	-
PC-CLN-16*	Textile and leather cleaning and care products (including footwear)	Products for the cleaning and care of textile and leather goods including footwear. Excludes upholstery (see 'Carpet and upholstery products') and colourants (see 'Dyes' and 'Pigments').

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-CLN-16.1	Leather – cleaning and care products	Products intended to clean or condition leather articles such footwear, furniture and other leather goods in order to preserve or restore strength, appearance and flexibility (excludes 'Impregnation products').
PC-CLN-16.2	Textile footwear – cleaning products	Cleaning products for textile footwear (excluding leather footwear).
PC-CLN-16.3	Textile fresheners/deodorisers	Excludes air care products for footwear – see 'Air care products for shoes'.
PC-CLN-16.4	Dry cleaning and associated products	Products intended to clean textiles in non-aqueous cleaning processes.
PC-CLN-16.5	Impregnation products for finished textiles and leather goods	Products intended for waterproofing or as a dirt repellent for finished textiles and leather goods. Does not include impregnation products used in the industrial processing of textiles or leather – see 'Textile treatment products' or 'Leather treatment products'.
PC-CLN-16.6	Outdoor textiles – cleaning products	Products intended to clean awnings, tents, tarpaulins, sails...
PC-CLN-16.OTH	Other textile and leather cleaning and care products (including footwear)	-
PC-CLN-17*	Vehicle (all types) cleaning and care products	-
PC-CLN-17.1	Exterior cleaning products – all vehicle types	Includes automotive shampoos and other products intended to remove dirt, grease and grime from car exteriors.
PC-CLN-17.2	Exterior care products – all vehicle types	Includes lacquers, polishes, waxes.
PC-CLN-17.3	Interior cleaning and care products (excludes air care products and products for upholstery or leather)	Cleaning and care products used to clean interior surfaces of vehicles, e.g. rubber, vinyl, plastic. For leather upholstery, see 'Leather – cleaning and care products'. For fabric and textile upholstery cleaners, see 'Cleaning products for carpet/upholstery'.
PC-CLN-17.4	Engine cleaners	-
PC-CLN-17.5	Brake cleaners	-
PC-CLN-17.6	Chromium, rim and other metal cleaners – all vehicle types	-


EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-CLN-17.7	Windscreen/windshield cleaners	Products intended to wash vehicular windscreens/windshields by direct application.
PC-CLN-17.8	Windscreen/windshield wash fluid	Product added to vehicles for the cleaning of the windscreen by the windscreen wipers.
PC-CLN-17.OTH	Other vehicles (all types) cleaning and care products	-
PC-CLN-OTH	Other cleaning, care and maintenance products (excludes biocidal products)	-

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

** See additional information for this category in section 5.5.

5.6 Colourants (PC-COL)

This category only includes **end use products** intended to impart colour, for example, to textiles, leather, paper, and other materials. Colourants used for cosmetic purposes, such as hair dyes, are not within the scope of Article 45 of the CLP Regulation and are not included here. Table 7 presents the two PC-COL subcategories.

 **The category PC-COL excludes** fixing agents used in dyeing processes – see in section 5.16 'Textile treatment products (excludes dyes and pigments)', a subcategory in 'Products for chemical or technical processes' (PC-TEC).


 Mixtures that are mixed during end use (e.g. in the production of articles) are not considered mixtures for further formulation¹⁹.

Table 7: 'Colourants' product subcategories, including EuPCS codes and descriptions.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-COL*	Colourants	-
PC-COL-1	Dyes	Soluble colourants.
PC-COL-2	Pigments	Insoluble colourants.

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

¹⁹ Adapted from the *Guidance on information requirements and chemical safety assessment – Chapter R.12: Use description* pg. 20:

https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13632/information_requirements_r12_en.pdf.

5.7 Construction products (PC-CON)

Table 8 presents the subcategories of construction products. A construction product is any product or kit which is produced and placed on the market for incorporation in a permanent manner in construction works or parts thereof and the performance of which has an effect on the performance of the construction works with respect to the basic requirements for construction works²⁰.



The category PC-CON excludes:

- non-cementitious adhesives used in building, renovation or construction work;
- gap-filler sealants used in building, renovation or construction work.

See subcategory 'Adhesives and sealants – building and construction works', in section 5.1 'Adhesives and sealants' (PC-ADH).



The subcategory 'PC-CON-5 – **Construction chemicals**' covers a broad range of products that have been divided into three distinct product areas as described in Table 8. The subcategory includes chemical products used for the priming and protection of construction materials (i.e. products not covered by 'Paint/coatings – Protective and functional' subcategory).

Table 8: 'Construction products' subcategories, including EuPCS codes, labels and descriptions.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-CON*	Construction products	Construction products include products for incorporation in construction works (building or engineering works) or parts of them (except biocidal products).
PC-CON-1	Cement	-
PC-CON-2	Concrete	-
PC-CON-3	Gypsum	Gypsum products are primarily based on calcium sulphate and include gypsum plasters, floor screeds and fillers.
PC-CON-4	Mortars	Mortar is a generic term comprising masonry and repair mortars, plaster and renders, screeds and cement-based adhesives (for other non-cementitious adhesives, see 'Adhesives and sealants – building and construction works').

²⁰ Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106/EEC: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011R0305>.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-CON-5	Construction chemicals	<p>Construction chemicals include products that are added to or on construction materials on the construction site:</p> <p>a) to improve workability or enhance performance, e.g. admixtures and additives (polycarboxylates, polycondensate resins, cellulose ethers, siloxanes, biopolymers) for concrete and mortar;</p> <p>b) for special functionality, e.g. modified mineral mortar systems (repair mortars, renders, sealing and bonding products, e.g. polymer dispersions, epoxy resins, polyurethanes);</p> <p>c) for protecting the construction materials or the finished structure made out of them, e.g. concrete release agents, hydrophobing agents, reactive resins, liquid applied membranes for waterproofing, modified bitumen-based emulsions for waterproofing.</p>
PC-CON-OTH	Other construction products	-

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.


5.8 Detergents and auxiliaries for laundry and dishwashing (PC-DET)

This category covers detergents and auxiliaries employed for laundry and dishwashing as described in Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 on detergents²¹. It includes detergents e.g. in unit-dose packaging (note that information on packaging is to be provided in another section of the submission format). Table 9 presents the subcategories of PC-DET.

The category PC-DET excludes:

- laundry bleaches – see in section 5.5, 'Bleaching products for cleaning or laundry use (excluding biocidal products)', a subcategory in 'Cleaning, care and maintenance products' (PC-CLN); and
- textile fresheners – see in section 5.5, 'Textile fresheners/deodorisers', a subcategory in 'Cleaning, care and maintenance products' (PC-CLN).

Special consideration should be given to the following subcategories:

-  'PC-DET-2.7 – **Washing machine care agents**' and 'PC-DET-4.2 – **Dishwashing machine care agents**' exclude products where the only intended use is to deodorise – see in section 5.2, 'Ambient deodorisers', a subcategory in 'Air care products' (PC-AIR).

²¹ Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on detergents: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32004R0648>.



PC-DET-2.8 **'Whitening agents or optical brighteners'** excludes laundry bleaches – see in section 5.5, 'Bleaching products for cleaning of laundry use (excluding biocidal products)', a subcategory in 'Cleaning, care and maintenance products' (PC-CLN).

Table 9: 'Detergents and auxiliaries for laundry and dishwashing (excluding biocidal products)' subcategories, including EuPCS codes, labels and descriptions.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-DET*	Detergents and auxiliaries for laundry and dishwashing (excludes biocidal products)	Products containing soaps and/or other surfactants intended for washing and cleaning processes. Detergents may be in any form (liquid, powder, paste, bar, cake, moulded piece, shape, etc.) and marketed for or used in household, or professional or industrial purposes.
PC-DET-1*	Laundry detergents	This category covers products for the washing and conditioning of laundry in household (including in launderettes and common laundries) and industrial washing machines.
PC-DET-1.1	Laundry detergent for hand washing	A detergent product to be used specifically for the hand washing of laundry.
PC-DET-1.2	Laundry detergents – household use	Includes unit-dose capsules.
PC-DET-1.3	Laundry detergents – professional or industrial use	Includes unit-dose capsules.
PC-DET-1.OTH	Other laundry detergents	-
PC-DET-2*	Auxiliary laundry and care products (excludes biocidal products)	Excludes laundry bleaches (see 'Bleaching products for cleaning of laundry use (excludes biocidal products)'); excludes textile fresheners (see 'Textile fresheners/deodorisers').
PC-DET-2.1	Detergency boosters and in-wash stain removers	In-wash products intended to enhance the cleaning performance of the washing process or remove stains from textiles.
PC-DET-2.2	Fabric softeners	Products intended to modify the feel of fabrics in processes which are to complement the washing of fabrics.
PC-DET-2.3	Ironing aid products	-
PC-DET-2.4	Laundry starch	-
PC-DET-2.5	Pre-treatment stain removers	Products intended to treat stains before the washing process.
PC-DET-2.6	Rinse agents for laundry (excludes biocidal products)	-

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-DET-2.7	Washing machine care agents	Does not apply to products that are only used to deodorise – see 'Ambient deodorisers'.
PC-DET-2.8	Whitening agents or optical brighteners	Whitening agents or optical brighteners are fluorescent whitening agents that reflect the ultra-violet rays of the sun as white, visible light, giving the clothing an impression of whiteness.
PC-DET-2.OTH	Other auxiliary laundry and care products (excludes biocidal products)	-
PC-DET-3*	Dishwashing detergents	Includes unit dose.
PC-DET-3.1	Automatic dishwashing detergents – household use	-
PC-DET-3.2	Automatic dishwashing detergents – professional or industrial use	Products primarily for use in, e.g. professional restaurants, institutional settings.
PC-DET-3.3	Hand dishwashing detergents	Detergents intended to be used to wash dishes by hand.
PC-DET-3.OTH	Other dishwashing detergents	-
PC-DET-4*	Auxiliary dishwashing and care products	-
PC-DET-4.1	Dishwasher salt	-
PC-DET-4.2	Dishwashing machine care agents	Includes anti corrosion products. Does not apply to products that are only intended to deodorise – see 'Ambient deodorisers'.
PC-DET-4.3	Glass protection products	-
PC-DET-4.4	Rinse agents for dishes	Products intended to improve rinsing and prevent filming on dishes.
PC-DET-4.OTH	Other auxiliary dishwashing and care products	-

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

** See additional information for this category in section 5.8.

5.9 E-liquids and mixtures for electronic cigarettes (PC-ELQ)

E-liquids are mixtures used in vapor products such as electronic cigarettes. An electronic cigarette means a product that can be used for consumption of nicotine-containing vapour through a mouth-piece, or any component of that product, including a cartridge, a tank and the

device without a cartridge or tank. Electronic cigarettes can be disposable or refillable (by means of a refill container and a tank), or rechargeable with single use cartridges²².



'PC-ELQ – **E-liquids and mixtures for electronic cigarettes**' is not sub-categorised further (Table 10), therefore all e-liquids and mixtures used in electronic cigarettes are categorised in this category for the purposes of Article 45 of the CLP Regulation.

Table 10: 'E-liquids and mixtures for electronic cigarettes' subcategory, including the EuPCS code and label.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-ELQ	E-liquids and mixtures for electronic cigarettes	-

5.10 Fertilisers and fertilising products (PC-FER)

This category covers those products intended for providing nutrients or for improving their nutrition efficiency. Table 11 presents the subcategories of 'Fertilisers and fertilising products' developed according to the new regulation on fertilisers currently under development²³.



The category PC-FER excludes soil remediation products intended, for example, for the environmental remediation of contaminated soils – see in section 5.16, 'Soil remediation products', a subcategory in 'Products for chemical or technical processes' (PC-TEC).

Special consideration should be given to the following subcategory:



'PC-FER-7 – **Combination of fertilisers and fertilising products**' covers products where the primary aim is not to provide nutrition (e.g. a growing media with fertilisers).

Table 11: 'Fertilisers and fertilising products' subcategories, including EuPCS codes, labels and descriptions.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-FER*	Fertilisers and fertilising products	Products applied or intended to be applied, either on their own or mixed with another material, on plants or their rhizosphere for the purpose of providing plants with nutrient or improving their nutrition efficiency. Excludes 'Soil remediation products' used for contaminated areas.
PC-FER-1	Fertilisers	Products primarily aimed at providing nutrients to plants. Includes fertilisers mixed, for example, with inhibitors or chelating agents.

²² Definition taken from the Tobacco Products Directive 2014/40/EU:

https://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/products/revision_en.

²³ For more information, see [Fertilizers Europe: http://www.fertilizerseurope.com/new-fertilizer-regulation/](http://www.fertilizerseurope.com/new-fertilizer-regulation/).

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-FER-2	Liming material	Products aimed at correcting soil acidity, and containing oxides, hydroxides, carbonates or silicates of the nutrients calcium (Ca) or magnesium (Mg).
PC-FER-3	Soil improvers	Products aimed at being added to the soil for the purpose of maintaining, improving or protecting the physical or chemical properties, the structure or the biological activity of soil.
PC-FER-4	Growing media	A growing material shall be a material other than soil intended for use as a substrate for root development.
PC-FER-5	Agronomic additives	Products intended to be added to a product providing plants with nutrient, with the intention to improve that products' nutrient release patterns.
PC-FER-6	Plant biostimulants	Products stimulating plant nutrition processes independently of the product's nutrient content with the sole aim of improving one or more of the following characteristics of the plant: (a) nutrient use efficiency; (b) tolerance to abiotic stress; or (c) crop quality traits.
PC-FER-7**	Combination of fertilisers and fertilising products	Includes products containing a combination of fertiliser and fertilising product categories. Does not apply to products where the primary aim is to provide nutrition – see 'Fertilisers'.

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

** See additional information for this category in section 5.10.

5.11 Fuels and fuel additives (PC-FUE)

This category includes all fuel types and fuel additives. Table 12 presents the subcategories of fuels and fuel additives.

Special consideration should be given to the following subcategory:



'PC-FUE-2 – **Lamp oils**', which includes scented products for indoor or outdoor use, may cover products considered as 'Air care'.

Table 12: 'Fuels (and fuel additives)' subcategories, including EuPCS codes, labels and descriptions.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-FUE*	Fuels (and fuel additives)	Includes fuels for vehicles and machinery, lamp oils (e.g. for decorative lamps), grill lighter fluids and lamp fuels for portable devices (e.g. for outdoor cooking).
PC-FUE-1	Fuels for vehicles and machinery	-
PC-FUE-2**	Lamp oils	Includes scented and unscented lamp oils.
PC-FUE-3	Grill lighter fluids	Lighter fluids e.g. for charcoal grills.
PC-FUE-4	Camp fuels	Fuels for portable heating, cooking and lighting devices, e.g. camping stoves and lanterns (excludes lamp oils).


EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-FUE-5	Fuel additives and fuel components	Products added to fuels to impart or enhance desirable properties or to suppress undesirable properties. Excludes heat transfer fluids – see 'Heat transfer fluids'.
PC-FUE-OTH	Other fuels	-

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

** See additional information for this category in section 5.11.

5.12 Inks, toners and related printing materials (PC-INK)

This category covers those products related to writing and printing activities for home, professional and industrial use. Table 13 presents the subcategories for inks, toners and other related printing materials.

 This category **does not cover** inks used for body art and similar – see section 5.15, 'Tattoo inks' (PC-TAT).

Special attention should be given to the following subcategory:

 'PC-INK-3 – **Commercial printing inks, toners and related finishing products**' – note that related finishing products include overprint varnishes and coatings.

Table 13: 'Inks, toners and related printing materials' products subcategories, including EuPCS codes, labels and descriptions.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-INK*	Inks, toners and related printing materials	Excludes tattoo inks – see 'Tattoo inks'.
PC-INK-1	Writing and drawing inks	Inks for use in writing or drawing by hand, e.g. by pen, brush etc. Includes inks for stamp pad use.
PC-INK-2	Inks and toners for home and office printers	Inks and toners used for printing in the home and office environment.
PC-INK-3**	Commercial printing inks, toners and related finishing products	Products for industrial or professional printing processes (flexography, lithography, screen printing, etc.).
PC-INK-4	Pressroom chemicals	Pressroom chemicals other than inks, such as fountain solutions, blanket washes etc.
PC-INK-5	Correction fluids	Fluids used to cover up permanent ink so that corrections can be made.
PC-INK-OTH	Other inks, toners and related printing materials	Other inks, toners and related printing materials not already covered.

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

** See additional information for this category in 5.12.

5.13 Paints and coatings (and related auxiliaries) (PC-PNT)

Paints and coatings cover those products that form a dried film when they are applied to a substrate, possessing protective, decorative and/or other specific technical properties. Table 14 presents the subcategories for paints, coatings and related auxiliaries.

 **This category does not cover:**

- paints and related auxiliaries used only for artistic expression or decoration – see section 5.4, 'Art materials' (PC-ART);
- products used for the priming or protection of construction materials – see section 5.7, 'Construction chemicals' (PC-CON);
- metal surface treatment products – see section 5.16, 'Products for chemical or technical processes' (PC-TEC).

The following subcategories deserve particular attention:




-  'PC-PNT-1 – **Aerosol paints and coatings**' is to be selected if paints and coatings are supplied in ready-to-use aerosol canisters for spray application, regardless of any other intended use in PC-PNT.
-  'PC-PNT-2 – **Paints/coatings – decorative**' includes tinters for deco-mixing at the point of sale and is considered as an end use and not for further formulation.
-  'PC-PNT-7 – **Paint removers, thinners and related auxiliaries**' includes paint strippers but excludes floor strippers – see section 5.5, 'Cleaning, care and maintenance products' (PC-CLN). It also excludes paint auxiliaries used for artistic expression.

Table 14: 'Paints and coatings (and related auxiliaries)' products subcategories, including EuPCS codes, labels and descriptions.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-PNT*	Paints and coatings (and related auxiliaries)	Products in liquid, paste or powder form which, when applied to a substrate, form a (clear or opaque) dried film possessing protective, decorative and or other specific technical properties. Excludes chemical products used for priming or protection of construction materials – see 'Construction chemicals'.
PC-PNT-1**	Aerosol paints and coatings	Paints and coatings supplied in ready-to-use aerosol canisters for spray application.
PC-PNT-2**	Paints/coatings – Decorative	Paints and coatings (including tinters for deco mixing systems) for decorative architectural use, e.g. of interior and exterior surfaces of buildings and fixtures. Includes varnishes and wood stains.
PC-PNT-3	Paints/coatings – Protective and functional	Protective coatings that are characterised as 'paint' (e.g. anti-corrosion, fire retardants etc.) and paints for specific functional purposes (e.g. tank/pipe lining, road marking, anti-graffiti etc.). Excludes chemical products used for priming or the protection of construction materials – see 'Construction chemicals'.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-PNT-4	Marine vessel coatings (excludes anti-fouling products)	Coatings for the protection/finishing of all watercraft. Excludes anti-foulants – see 'Anti-fouling products'.
PC-PNT-5	Automotive and aerospace coatings	Coatings for vehicles and aircraft (or their parts). Includes original equipment manufacturer (OEM) i.e. factory-applied coatings, paints, hardeners and reducers for repair and refinishing etc.
PC-PNT-6	Factory-applied coatings (excludes categories already covered)	Coatings applied in a production setting, e.g. for electrical appliances and other metal goods, furniture, metal packaging etc. Excludes already covered categories for 'Paints and coatings (and related auxiliaries)'.
PC-PNT-7**	Paint removers, thinners and related auxiliaries	Chemicals for removal/dilution of paint, sanding aids, cleaning of brushes, etc.
PC-PNT-OTH	Other paints and coating materials	Other paints and coating materials not already covered.

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

** See additional information for this category in section 5.13.

5.14 Pyrotechnic products (PC-PYR)

Table 15 presents the subcategories for pyrotechnic products for indoor, outdoor and theatrical use as defined in the EU Directive 2013/29/EU on pyrotechnic articles²⁴, in addition to other pyrotechnic articles, e.g. those used in maritime safety.

Table 15: 'Pyrotechnic products' products subcategories, including EuPCS codes, labels and descriptions.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-PYR*	Pyrotechnic products	Pyrotechnic products as defined in the EU Directive 2013/29/EU on pyrotechnic articles.
PC-PYR-1	Fireworks for indoor use	Fireworks which present a very low hazard and negligible noise level and which are intended for use in confined areas, including fireworks which are intended for use inside domestic buildings.
PC-PYR-2	Fireworks for outdoor use	Fireworks which present a low to high hazard and are intended for outdoor use.
PC-PYR-3	Theatrical pyrotechnic products	Pyrotechnic products designed for indoor or outdoor stage use, including film and television products or similar use.

²⁴ Pyrotechnic Articles Directive 2013/29/EU:
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013L0029>.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-PYR-4	Signalling products	Pyrotechnics used e.g. in maritime safety, including rocket parachute flares, hand flares.
PC-PYR-OTH	Other pyrotechnic products	Other pyrotechnic products not already covered.

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

** See additional information for this category in section 5.14.

5.15 Tattoo inks (PC-TAT)

Tattoo inks are applied by injecting coloured inks into the dermis. It may be for body art, permanent make-up (PMU), or other purposes, e.g. veterinary use.



'PC-TAT – **Tattoo inks**' is not subcategorised further (Table 16), therefore all tattoo ink mixtures are placed in this category for the purposes of Article 45 of the CLP Regulation.

Table 16: 'Tattoo inks' products subcategory, including EuPCS code, label and description.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-TAT	Tattoo inks	Includes permanent tattoo inks for artistic or other purposes.

5.16 Products for chemical or technical processes (PC-TEC)

This category only includes subcategories for **end use products** employed for chemical or technical processes. Table 16 presents the subcategories of products for chemical or technical processes.



This category excludes raw material mixtures or other mixtures not intended for end use – see section 3.3, 'Mixtures for further formulation'.



The majority of the subcategories of PC-TEC have been taken or adapted from the guidance on use description under REACH²⁵.

Special consideration should be given to the following subcategory:



'PC-TEC-17 – **Processing aids**' covers processing aids used in various industry sectors. This subcategory must not be used if another subcategory of this group can be employed, e.g. 'Paper and board treatment products', 'Leather treatment products'.

²⁵ *Guidance on information requirements and chemical safety assessment – Chapter R.12: Use description:* https://www.echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13632/information_requirements_r12_en.pdf. About half of the chemical product categories (PCs) are mentioned as subcategories of 'Products for chemical or technical processes (PC-TEC)'; the other half is covered elsewhere in the EuPCS, and only four PCs are outside of its scope.

Table 17: 'Products for chemical or technical processes' subcategories, including codes, labels and descriptions (where available).

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-TEC*	Products for chemical or technical processes	This category only includes end-use products. It does not apply to products with no end-use e.g. raw materials, see 'F - Mixtures for further formulation'.
PC-TEC-1	Adsorbents	Adsorbent products used in various industry sectors for a range of applications.
PC-TEC-2	Antifreeze and de-icing products	Antifreeze products are intended to reduce the freezing point of surfaces. De-icing products reduce the freezing point of surfaces with the intention to remove ice.
PC-TEC-3	Desiccants	Products used primarily to absorb moisture. Includes silica gel.
PC-TEC-4	Electrolytes for batteries	Mixtures (liquids or pastes) designed to serve as electrolytes in batteries.
PC-TEC-5	Fire extinguishers	Products containing fire extinguishing chemicals (e.g. foam) to assist with the control of small fires.
PC-TEC-6	Fragrances	Includes fragrance mixtures for end-use only.
PC-TEC-7	Heat transfer fluids	-
PC-TEC-8	Hydraulic fluids, including brake and transmission fluids	-
PC-TEC-9	Intermediates	A substance that is manufactured for and consumed in or used for chemical processing in order to be transformed into another substance (REACH, Article 3(15)).
PC-TEC-10	Leather treatment products (excludes dyes and pigments)	Products used for the upstream industrial processing of leather, including relevant impregnation products. For dyes and pigments, see 'Colourants'. For other impregnation products for finished leather goods, see 'Impregnation products for finished textiles and leather goods'.
PC-TEC-11	Lubricants, greases, release agents	-
PC-TEC-12	Metal surface treatment products	This covers products containing substances permanently binding with the metal surface. It includes e.g. galvanic and electroplating products.
PC-TEC-13	Metal working fluids	-
PC-TEC-14	Paper and board treatment products (excluding dyes)	This category includes e.g. bleaches, finishing, impregnation products and other processing aids. For dyes, see 'Dyes'.
PC-TEC-15	Photochemicals	Products for the chemical processing of photosensitive materials.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PC-TEC-16	Polymer preparations and compounds	-
PC-TEC-17**	Processing aids	This category covers processing aids used in various industry sectors (unless otherwise specified in subcategories of 'PC-TEC', e.g. paper and board treatment products, leather treatment products). Products include pH regulators, flocculants, precipitants, neutralisation agents, catalysts, emulsifiers, solubilisers, dispersing agents.
PC-TEC-18	Products used in mining, oil or gas exploration processes	Excludes production products, i.e. raw materials.
PC-TEC-19	Reagents and laboratory chemicals	Reagents and laboratory chemicals include products of sufficient purity for use e.g. in chemical analysis, chemical reactions.
PC-TEC-20	Soil remediation products	Products e.g. for the remediation of contaminated soils. Excludes 'Fertilisers or fertilising products'.
PC-TEC-21	Solvents and extraction agents	-
PC-TEC-22	Surfactants mixtures for industrial applications	-
PC-TEC-23	Textile treatment products (excludes dyes and pigments)	Products used for the upstream industrial processing of textiles, including impregnation products. For dyes and pigments, see 'Colourants'. For impregnation products for finished textiles, see 'Impregnation products for finished textiles and leather goods'.
PC-TEC-24	Welding, soldering, and flux products	Excludes 'Metal surface treatment products' and 'Metal working fluids'.
PC-TEC-OTH	Other products for chemical or technical processes	Other products for chemical or technical processes not already covered.

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

** See additional information for this category in section 5.16.

5.17 Biocidal products (PP-BIO)

The categorisation of this group has been made according to biocidal product types as referred to in Article 2(1) of the BPR²⁶. The subcategories presented in Table 18 correspond to the biocidal product-types detailed in Annex V to the BPR.

²⁶ Biocidal Product Regulation (EU) No 528/2012:

<https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/biocidal-products-regulation/legislation>

Table 18: 'Biocidal products' subcategories, including EuPCS codes and corresponding product types according to the BPR.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PP-BIO*	Biocidal products	Biocidal product-types as referred to in Article 2(1) of the Biocidal Products Regulation (EU) No 528/2012.
PP-BIO-1	Biocidal products for human hygiene	PT1 – Biocidal products used for human hygiene purposes applied on or in contact with human skin or scalps for the primary purpose of disinfecting the skin or scalp.
PP-BIO-2	Disinfectants and algacides not intended for direct application to humans or animals	PT2 – Biocidal products used for the disinfection of surfaces, materials, equipment and furniture which are not used for direct contact with food or feeding stuffs. Usage areas include, inter alia, swimming pools, aquariums, bathing and other waters; air conditioning systems; and walls and floors in private, public and industrial areas and in other areas for professional activities.
PP-BIO-3	Biocidal products for veterinary hygiene	PT3 – Biocidal products used for veterinary hygiene such as disinfectants, disinfecting soaps, oral or corporal hygiene products or with anti-microbial function.
PP-BIO-4	Biocidal products for food and feed areas	PT4 – Biocidal products used for the disinfection of equipment, containers, consumption utensils, surfaces or pipework associated with the production, transport, storage or consumption of food or feed (including drinking water) for humans and animals.
PP-BIO-5	Biocidal products for drinking water	PT5 – Biocidal products used for the disinfection of drinking water for both humans and animals.
PP-BIO-6	Biocidal products used as preservatives for products during storage	PT6 – Biocidal products used for the preservation of manufactured products, other than foodstuffs, feeding stuffs, cosmetics or medicinal products or medical devices by the control of microbial deterioration to ensure their shelf life.
PP-BIO-7	Film preservatives	PT7 – Biocidal products used for the preservation of films or coatings by the control of microbial deterioration or algal growth in order to protect the initial properties of the surface of materials or objects such as paints, plastics, sealants, wall adhesives, binders, papers, art works.
PP-BIO-8	Wood preservatives	PT8 – Biocidal products used for the preservation of wood, from and including the saw-mill stage, or wood products by the control of wood-destroying or wood-disfiguring organisms, including insects.
PP-BIO-9	Fibre, leather, rubber and polymerised materials preservatives	PT9 – Biocidal products used for the preservation of fibrous or polymerised materials, such as leather, rubber or paper or textile products by the control of microbiological deterioration.
PP-BIO-10	Construction material preservatives	PT10 – Biocidal products used for the preservation of masonry, composite materials, or other construction materials other than wood by the control of microbiological, and algal attack.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PP-BIO-11	Preservatives for liquid-cooling and processing systems	PT11 – Biocidal products used for the preservation of water or other liquids used in cooling and processing systems by the control of harmful organisms such as microbes, algae and mussels.
PP-BIO-12	Slimicides	PT12 – Biocidal products used for the prevention or control of slime growth on materials, equipment and structures, used in industrial processes, e.g. on wood and paper pulp, porous sand strata in oil extraction.
PP-BIO-13	Working or cutting fluid preservatives	PT13 – Biocidal products to control microbial deterioration in fluids used for working or cutting metal, glass or other materials.
PP-BIO-14	Rodenticides (excluding for plant protection)	PT14 – Biocidal products used for the control of mice, rats or other rodents, by means other than repulsion or attraction.
PP-BIO-15	Avicides	PT15 – Biocidal products used for the control of birds, by means other than repulsion or attraction.
PP-BIO-16	Molluscicides, vermicides and products to control other invertebrates (excluding plant protection products)	PT16 – Biocidal products used for the control of molluscs, worms and invertebrates not covered by other product-types, by means other than repulsion or attraction.
PP-BIO-17	Piscicides	PT17 – Biocidal products used for the control of fish, by means other than repulsion or attraction.
PP-BIO-18	Insecticides, acaricides and products to control other arthropods (excluding equivalent products when used as pesticides)	PT18 – Biocidal products used for the control of arthropods (e.g. insects, arachnids and crustaceans) by means other than repulsion or attraction.
PP-BIO-19	Repellents and attractants	PT19 – Biocidal products used to control harmful organisms (invertebrates such as fleas, vertebrates such as birds, fish, rodents), by repelling or attracting.
PP-BIO-20	Control of other vertebrates	PT20 – Biocidal products used for the control of vertebrates other than those already covered by the other product-types of this main group by means other than repulsion or attraction.
PP-BIO-21	Antifouling products	PT21 – Biocidal products used to control the growth and settlement of fouling organisms (microbes and higher forms of plant or animal species) on vessels, aquaculture equipment or other structures used in water.
PP-BIO-22	Embalming and taxidermist fluids	PT22 – Biocidal products used for the disinfection and preservation of human or animal corpses or parts thereof.

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

5.18 Plant protection products (excluding biocidal products) (PP-PRD)

This category covers plant protection products as described in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing on the market of plant protection products²⁷. Table 19 presents the subcategories for plant protection products.

Table 19: 'Plant protection products' subcategories, including codes, labels and descriptions.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PP-PRD	Plant protection products (excludes biocidal products)	Plant protection products as described in Article 2 of (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing on the market of plant protection products.
PP-PRD-1	Acaricides for plant protection	Products used to control mites.
PP-PRD-2	Attractants (excluding semio-chemicals)	Products generally used in conjunction with traps to provide a monitoring function in crops.
PP-PRD-3	Bactericides for plant protection	Products used to control bacteria on plants.
PP-PRD-4	Biopesticides for plant protection	Biopesticides include derivatives of natural materials such as animals, plants and certain minerals; they also include bacteria, fungi or moulds and viruses and "basic substances".
PP-PRD-5	Fungicides for plant protection	Products used to control plant fungi.
PP-PRD-6	Herbicides for plant protection, including haulm destructors and moss killers	Products used to control unwanted plants.
PP-PRD-7	Insecticides for plant protection	Products used to control insects.
PP-PRD-8	Molluscicides for plant protection	Products used to control snails and slugs.
PP-PRD-9	Nematicides for plant protection	Products used to control nematodes.
PP-PRD-10	Plant growth regulators	A plant growth regulator is an organic compound, either natural or synthetic, that modifies or controls one or more specific physiological processes within a plant. If the compound is produced within the plant it is called a plant hormone.
PP-PRD-11	Repellents for plant protection	Products used to repel insects or other pests from settling on or near the plant surface.

²⁷ Plant Protection Product Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32009R1107>.

EuPCS code	Label	Description
PP-PRD-12	Rodenticides for plant protection	Products that controls rodents including rats, mice, squirrels, woodchucks, chipmunks, porcupines, nutria, and beavers.
PP-PRD-13	Semio-chemicals	Natural or synthetic pheromones used to either attract insects for monitoring and an indication as to when to spray or to disrupt their behaviour.
PP-PRD-14	Soil sterilants	Products that temporarily or permanently prevents the growth of all plants and animals.
PP-PRD-15	Talpicides for plant protection	Products used to control moles.
PP-PRD-16	Viricides for plant protection	Products specifically used to control plant viruses such as leaf curl and leaf mosaic virus.
PP-PRD-OTH	Other plant protection products	Other plant protection products not already covered.

* Parent category not selectable or supported by the format.

6. Updates to the product categorisation system

The EuPCS is a dynamic system that needs to reflect legislative changes, industry needs and the requirements for Member States' poison centres and appointed bodies, and as such must accommodate changes that may be considered desirable or necessary. A process is currently being established for this purpose and will be made available in the EuPCS section of ECHA's Poison Centres website. An important function of the EuPCS is to maintain a stable system for identifying product categories. For this reason, a compelling justification is needed for changing the EuPCS, as the procedure aims to ensure the highest stability possible for the system.



In cases where an update need is identified, contact your industry association for further advice or clarification.

7. Further information and support

National helpdesks:

http://echa.europa.eu/help/nationalhelp_contact_en.asp

ECHA Helpdesk:

<http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/support/helpdesks/echa-helpdesk>

ECHA's Guidance on harmonised information relating to emergency health responses:

<https://echa.europa.eu/support/guidance/consultation-procedure/ongoing-clp>

ECHA's Poison Centres website: <https://poisoncentres.echa.europa.eu/>

8. Annex I

8.1 Mapping to the REACH product categories

- The following proposed mapping system may support the submitter in finding the corresponding EuPCS category, where available, for the REACH product categories²⁸.
- Note that in the table below, only categories for end use products are mapped – otherwise, the EuPCS category 'F – Mixtures for further formulation' applies.
- Note that it is the responsibility of the submitter to identify the appropriate categories from the EuPCS. Parent categories (e.g. PC-ADH), although referred to in the mapping table*, cannot be selected for submission purposes but require the submitter to select the appropriate subcategory or subcategories within them.

Table 20: Proposed mapping of REACH product categories to EuPCS categories.

REACH product categories		EuPCS product categories
Code	Category label	Category code (and label)
PC1	Adhesives, sealants	PC-ADH – Adhesives and sealants*
PC2	Adsorbents	PC-TEC-1 – Adsorbents
PC3	Air care products	PC-AIR – Air care products*
PC4	Anti-freeze and de-icing products	PC-TEC-2 – Anti-freeze and de-icing products
PC7	Base metals and alloys	1
PC8	Biocidal products	PP-BIO – Biocidal products*
PC9a	Coatings and paints, thinners, paint removers	For example: PC-PNT – Paints and coatings (and related auxiliaries)* PC-ART – Art materials (including chemical products used for decorative purposes)*
PC9b	Fillers, putties, plasters, modelling clay	Including, but not limited to: PC-ADH – Adhesives and sealants* PC-ART-5 – Modelling compounds PC-CON-3 – Gypsum PC-CON-4 – Mortars
PC9c	Finger paints	PC-ART-2 – Finger paints
PC11	Explosives	PC-PYR – Pyrotechnics ²
PC12	Fertilisers	PC-FER – Fertilisers and fertilising products*
PC13	Fuels	PC-FUE – Fuels (and fuel additives)*

²⁸ For further details, see *Guidance on information requirements and chemical safety assessment – Chapter R.12: Use description*:

https://www.echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13632/information_requirements_r12_en.pdf/.

REACH product categories		EuPCS product categories
Code	Category label	Category code (and label)
PC14	Metal surface treatment products	PC-TEC-12 – Metal surface treatment products
PC15	Non-metal surface treatment products	For example: PC-CON-5 – Construction chemicals PC-PNT – Paints and coatings (and related auxiliaries)*
PC16	Heat transfer fluids	PC-TEC-7 – Heat transfer fluids
PC17	Hydraulic fluids	PC-TEC-8 – Hydraulic fluids, including brake and transmission fluids
PC18	Ink and toners	PC-INK – Inks, toners and related printing materials*
PC20	Processing aids such as pH-regulators, flocculants, precipitants, neutralisation agents	PC-TEC-17 – Processing aids
PC21	Laboratory chemicals	PC-TEC-19 – Reagents and laboratory chemicals
PC23	Leather treatment products	Including, but not limited to: PC-COL – Colourants* PC-TEC-10 – Leather treatment products (excludes dyes and pigments) PC-CLN-16.5 – Impregnation products for finished textiles and leather goods
PC24	Lubricants, greases, release products	PC-TEC-11 – Lubricants, greases, release agents
PC25	Metal working fluids	PC-TEC-13 – Metal working fluids
PC26	Paper and board treatment products	Including, but not limited to: PC-TEC-14 – Paper and board treatment products (excluding dyes) PC-COL – Colourants*
PC27	Plant protection products	PP-PRD – Plant protection products (excluding biocidal products)*
PC28	Perfumes, fragrances	PC-TEC-6 – Fragrances
PC29	Pharmaceuticals	1
PC30	Photochemicals	PC-TEC-15 – Photochemicals
PC31	Polishes and wax blends	PC-CLN – Cleaning, care and maintenance products (excluding biocidal products)*
PC32	Polymer preparations and compounds	PC-TEC-16 – Polymer preparations and compounds
PC33	Semiconductors	1

REACH product categories		EuPCS product categories
Code	Category label	Category code (and label)
PC34	Textile dyes, and impregnating products	Including, but not limited to: PC-COL – Colourants* PC-TEC-23 – Textile treatment products (excluding dyes and pigments) PC-CLN-16.5 – Impregnation products for finished textiles and leather goods
PC35	Washing and cleaning products	PC-CLN – Cleaning, care and maintenance products (excluding biocidal products)* PC-DET – Detergents and auxiliaries for laundry and dishwashing (excluding biocidal products)*
PC36	Water softeners	Including, but not limited to: PC-DET-2.1 – Detergency boosters and in-wash stain removers PC-TEC – Processing aids
PC37	Water treatment chemicals	Including, but not limited to: PC-TEC-17 – Processing aids
PC38	Welding and soldering products, flux products	PC-TEC-24 – Welding, soldering and flux products
PC39	Cosmetics, personal care products	¹
PC40	Extraction agents	PC-TEC-21 – Solvents and extraction agents
PC41	Oil and gas exploration or production products	PC-TEC-18 – Products used in mining, oil or gas exploration processes
PC42	Electrolytes for batteries	PC-TEC-4 – Electrolytes for batteries
PC0	Other	For example: ...-OTH ³ – Other... PC-UNC – Chemical products – uncategorised

* Additional subcategories are available in the EuPCS.

¹ Outside the scope of Article 45 of CLP.

² Explosives are outside the scope of Article 45 of the CLP, but some may be categorised as pyrotechnics.

³ In the EuPCS, 'OTH' is a subcategory of each third level (or fourth level, where relevant) category (e.g. 'PC-ADH-OTH – Other adhesives and sealants') except for biocidal products. Within it, there are no free text fields available to further specify the product category.

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