

Poison Centre Notification

The Poison Centre Notification (PCN) format aims to structure the information on hazardous mixtures classified for health or physical hazards available to poison centres in cases of poisoning incidents in the EU.

It is based on an XML (Extensible Markup Language) format and defined by the harmonised requirements laid out in Annex VIII to the CLP Regulation and is incorporated into the PCN dossier preparation tools offered by ECHA. It is also available for companies to prepare their own tools based on the PCN format, for example when using the system-to-system service. Regardless of which tools are used to prepare, the format must be adhered to.

The PCN format is compatible with IUCLID, a tool developed by ECHA in collaboration with the OECD, which promotes the harmonisation of chemicals data. You can find additional information about this tool on the [IUCLID website](#).

Further information about PCN:

- Guide to PCN format can be found [here](#).
- Validation rules for PCN can be found [here](#).

Unique Formula Identifier

What is a UFI?

The unique formula identifier, known by its acronym UFI, is a code that will be required on the label of your products that contain a hazardous mixture. In addition to the UFI, you are also required to provide other information on your mixture and associated products for poison centres to use, such as composition, trade name, colour, packaging, product category and toxicological information. The UFI aims to establish an unambiguous link between the information you provide with the product you place on the market.

The condition for assigning a UFI, is that all products labelled and notified with the same UFI need to share the same mixture composition.

How will the UFI be used?

The UFI and the other information you have provided, will primarily be used by poison centres in the event of an emergency call. For example, the UFI can be read directly from the label of a product to a poison centre operator in addition to the trade name to precisely identify the product involved in an incident.

What do you need to create a UFI?

To create a UFI for your mixture, you need your company's VAT number (or 'company key', in specific cases) and a mixture-specific formulation number. Entering these two numbers into ECHA's UFI Generator online tool will provide you with your UFI code. The VAT number is a key element to ensure that your UFI is unique so that no overlap occurs between UFIs generated by different companies.

Will the UFI keep your business information confidential?

The UFI also respects the integrity of your confidential business information. For example, it is not possible to decode information on the mixture composition from the UFI. Only poison centres will know which mixture composition corresponds to the UFI provided. In this way, the UFI protects your confidential business information.

When do you need a new UFI code?

As long as the mixture composition remains the same, the UFI code can remain the same, even if other changes to the product occur (such as new packaging or a new trade name). A new UFI only needs to be generated and to be printed on or affixed to the label when a change in the mixture composition occurs – for example, if a component is added, deleted or substituted, or if the concentrations of components change beyond the allowed variation range. You will need to make sure you monitor changes to the mixture composition and generate a new UFI, inform poison centres and relabel your products as necessary.

Does the UFI always have to be included on the label?

The UFI must be printed on or affixed to the label of all your products containing hazardous mixtures. It is also possible to indicate the UFI on the package of the product provided it is close to the other label elements. If the mixture is not packaged, the UFI must be included in section 1.1 of the safety data sheet.

What are the rules for a UFI code on the label?

The acronym ‘UFI’ (the same in all EU languages and alphabets, and not to be translated) must be in capital letters and be followed by colon and a 16-character alphanumeric code. The code is divided into four blocks, each separated by a hyphen. For example:

UFI: N1QV-R02N-J00M-WQD5

While no specific requirements have been set, for instance, for font type or size, the UFI has to be clearly visible and legible on the label of the product.



Figure Error! No text of specified style in document.1: A sample product label clearly incorporating the product’s UFI code.

By when should the UFI be on the label?

In all situations, the timing for including the UFI on the label of the product should coincide with the submission of harmonised information. It is not recommended to place the UFI on the label of the product if that UFI has not been included in a valid notification to the relevant Member State. In such cases, an 'empty UFI' will not provide any assistance to poison centres in the event of an emergency.

For mixtures not already on the market, your obligations to submit harmonised information and place the UFI on the label will apply from:

- 1 Jan 2021(consumer or professional use)
- 1 Jan 2024 (industrial use)

Further information about UFI:

- [UFI Generator](#) o [UFI Animation](#)
- UFI Generator application: [User Guide](#)