

151 TDI – A NETWORK OF INFORMATION AND CASE DOCUMENTATION IN GERMAN POISON CENTRES

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Objective: In recent years, all 10 poison centres (PC) serving different regions of Germany and the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR, formerly BgVV), Berlin, have intensified their cooperation. Among other aspects, the exchange of data on consumer product, delivered from industry either voluntarily according to the "EAPCCT format" (1) or on legal basis, has become an important part of PC work and quality management. The research project "TDI" (Toxikologischer Dokumentations- und Informationsverbund = Cooperation on Toxicological Case Documentation and Information), funded and formally managed by the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Natural Protection and Nuclear Safety, was constituted 1999 to design, develop and implement a computer network as a tool for reliable and easy-to-handle product data exchange and data retrieval. **Methods:** Based on experience from two technical projects of cooperation in the past experts from 7 German PCs formed 4 working groups to develop concepts on (a) use of computer technology for project's database development (b) industry – PC relations, including design of a product data acquisition program, (c) product categorisation and (d) procedures for cooperation and data exchange. Staff members and several external software companies have developed the project's software. The working groups have continuously controlled the project's developmental work and have organised software implementation and testing. **Results:** In summer 2002 all components of the TDI have been implemented and successfully tested in 7 PCs as well as in industry: in several industrial companies product data is entered into the system using the project's data acquisition program EMIL. Data files created by the EMIL software are sent to one selected project centre (primary centre, i.e., PC or BfR) using the well defined ROSETTA data format. The primary centre checks the data source and data quality by an automatic procedure and distributes data to all other project partners (secondary centres) using encrypted electronic data exchange. Finally, all centres integrate the evaluated product data records in their local relational TDI database (ORACLE) for retrieval within PCs' daily work. **Conclusion:** Product information delivered by industrial companies in a reliable data format is easily checked and quickly distributed to all German PC and the BfR using several technical tools developed in the TDI project. The project works as a peer-to-peer network without central steering institution and is therefore a model how an international data exchange could be realised in the future. **Reference:** (1) Exchange of information between European Poison Control Centres and Industry (AIS:FIFE:FEA). EAPCCT Newsletter April 1996, p. 3-13.