158 TDI-PROJECT: A HARMONIZED CATEGORY-SYSTEM FOR PRODUCTS IN POISONS CENTRES (PC)

Stürer AW[1], Hüller G[2], Cordes T[3], Desel H[4], Heinemeyer G[5], Reinecke HJ[1], Seidel C[6], Stedtler U[7], Wagner R[4].
[1]PC Mainz, [2]PC Erfurt, [3]ISTC Freiburg, [4]PC Göttingen, [5]BfR Berlin, [6]PC Bonn, [7]PC Freiburg, Germany

Objective: Grouping systems are important tools for retrieval and processing of huge data volumes in PC. Since 1999, German PC's and the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR, formerly BgVV) have been working on the toxicological data and information-network (TDI-Project, funded and formally managed by the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Natural Protection and Nuclear Safety) in order to establish a standardized procedure for product data transfer from industry to PC/BfR. The creation of a uniform category-system for products and biological substances is one of the main tasks of this project. Methods: 1. Survey for importance and usage of grouping systems in PC/BfR. 2. Conception of the technical integration. 3. Creation of a hierarchically arranged category tree. Results: 1. Four important functions were identified: a) Grouping of new products within the case documentation. b) Epidemiological evaluations with regards to product groups for reports. c) Group specific analysis of cases of poisoning for the development of monographs. d) Retrieval of toxicological information for one product group, if specific product information is missing. 2. The category-system is hierarchically structured in nine levels and connected with the main index of the product names. The hierarchy of the categories is determined by a code with optionally 26 letters or 99 numbers (similar to ATC-Code). 3. The classification of the noxious substances is made according to its purpose (products), taxonomical (natural environment), its source, or its properties (civilization load/ waste).

Table1. Sample fragments of the category-system

L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	L7	L8	L9	CATEGORY-NAME
P									Products
P	E								Everyday essentials
P	E	C							Cosmetics
P	E	C	S						Skin cosmetics
P	E	C	S	01					Skin detergents
P	E	C	S	01	S				Soap - cosmetic
P	E	C	S	01	?				...
P	E	C	Z						Cosmetics - other/unknown
P	R								Remedies
P	R	D							Drugs (human)
P	R	D	?						... (following the ATC-Code)
N									Natural environment
N	F								Fungi
N	P								Plants
N	A								Animals
N	?								...
C									Civilization load / waste

Conclusion: The common use of a harmonized category-system facilitates the classification of the product information submitted by industry. For the future, it allows a uniform classification of cases of poisoning in Germany. The systems with about 10,000 different categories are currently being tested and built up. Internationally established systems were integrated (e.g., ATC-Code, IPCS/INTOX). The technical base has been created in a flexible mode and allows more international harmonisations in future times.