

## OVERVIEW

**What is eChemPortal?** eChemPortal is an Internet gateway to information on the properties, hazards and risks of chemicals found in the environment, homes and workplaces, and in products used daily. It is an integrated system that allows users to simultaneously search multiple databases prepared for government chemical review programs around the world.



### **What are the objectives of eChemPortal?**

eChemPortal provides direct access to critical scientific information needed to meet public health and environmental objectives for the safe use of chemicals under proper conditions. Improving accessibility to these data increases understanding of chemical hazards and risks, changes behaviors, and reduces if not eliminates adverse health effects from exposures to chemicals.

### **How are these objectives being met?**

eChemPortal is being implemented in stages beginning in mid 2007. The first phase integrates several databases that currently can only be accessed individually on the Internet. Subsequent phases will extend these sources and incorporate advanced search and query options to retrieve specific hazard or other property and effects data (e.g., toxicity endpoints) simultaneously from the participating databases. To ensure proper understanding of the quality of the data retrieved through eChemPortal, information on the status of scientific reviews the data have undergone is provided.

### **How can users help develop eChemPortal?**

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on their experiences in retrieving data from eChemPortal using an online survey or by contacting the OECD Secretariat directly at eChemPortal@oecd.org. Having an understanding of users' needs will help to direct the continued development and improvement of eChemPortal and ensure greater use of these important data.

eChemPortal is a significant step towards achieving long standing international commitments to improve the public availability of data on chemicals.

**SEARCH MULTIPLE  
INTERNATIONAL DATABASES  
SIMULTANEOUSLY**

**ACCESS INFORMATION PREPARED  
FOR GOVERNMENT CHEMICAL  
REVIEW PROGRAMS**

**RETRIEVE CHEMICAL  
PROPERTIES AND EFFECTS DATA**

**READ DESCRIPTIONS OF  
SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS THE DATA  
HAVE UNDERGONE**

**PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON HOW TO  
IMPROVE THE SITE**



*The Global Portal to Information on  
Chemical Substances*

[www.oecd.org/ehs/echemportal/](http://www.oecd.org/ehs/echemportal/)

• **Free Public Access**

• **Search by Chemical  
Substance Name and  
CAS Number**

• **Retrieve Health and  
Environmental Effects  
Information**

## eChemPortal



For more information,  
contact the OECD  
Secretariat at  
eChemPortal@oecd.org



## Objectives

To make information on properties of existing chemicals publicly available and free of charge;



To enable quick and efficient use of this information;

To enable exchange of this information among countries.

## Roles and Responsibilities

eChemPortal is housed at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The databases linked to eChemPortal are maintained by the organizations that create them. They remain the responsibility of that organization. Each participating database in eChemPortal is responsible for the software and hardware running locally and interfacing with the Portal.



Descriptions of reviews the data have undergone (e.g., peer review by governmental authorities, other scientific review, awaiting review) are provided by the participating databases.

Participating databases are responsible for maintaining and updating links to information and responding to user inquiries and feedback.

## Extending eChemPortal

Holders of Internet-accessible databases or report collections containing peer-reviewed information on physical-chemical properties, environmental fate and pathways, ecotoxicity or toxicity of chemicals are invited to participate in eChemPortal. Proposals should be submitted to the OECD Secretariat.



Decisions on participation in eChemPortal are made by the OECD Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology in order to maintain the quality, integrity, and transparency of the system.

## Background & Chronology of International Events

**June 1992, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil:** The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit or the Rio Conference, adopts Agenda 21, Chapter 19 which addresses the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, covering "information exchange of toxic chemicals and chemical risks..." [Paragraph 4c].

**November 1998, Paris, France:** The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) agrees on a major refocusing of its work on the cooperative investigation of existing chemicals to significantly increase the numbers of chemicals being investigated and to make best use of industry initiatives.

**June 2001, Geneva Switzerland:** The International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), a collaborative venture of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), makes its collection of chemical safety reports produced by international organizations (known as INCHEM) available on the Internet free of charge.

**September 2002, Bangkok, Thailand:** The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) undertakes a ten year review of the progress made after the Earth Summit and encourages the "development of coherent and integrated information on chemicals..." [Paragraph 23f].

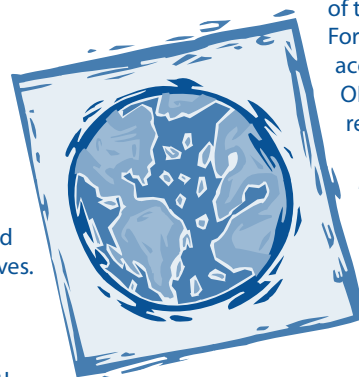
**October 2003, Paris, France:** The Organisation for

Economic Co-operation and Development initiates an activity to develop and implement a globally accessible international repository for hazard data on existing chemicals.

**November 2003, Bangkok, Thailand:** The Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS Forum IV) adopts a priority for action on improving the accessibility of hazard data on chemicals and invites the OECD, among others, to undertake certain tasks in this regard.

**January 2004, Arlington, Virginia, United States of America:** In an activity led by the United States and the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development begins work on the design and development of a global portal linking together existing data repositories of hazard data, assessments and report collections to assist countries and others with hazard identification and national priority setting on existing chemicals.

**February 2006, Dubai, United Arab Emirates:** The International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) adopts the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), a policy framework to international action on chemical hazards. The Dubai Declaration expresses the commitment to SAICM by Ministers, heads of delegations and representatives of civil society to "Facilitate public access to appropriate information and knowledge of chemicals throughout their life cycle..." [Paragraph 21].



## Global Commitment



eChemPortal is an effort of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in collaboration with the European Commission, the United States, Japan, Canada, the World Health Organization (WHO) International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), the United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals (UNEP), the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC), the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), and environmental non-governmental organizations.

