



21 February 2019

Information on obtaining a Unique Formula Identifier (UFI) for chemical products

The concept of UFI was introduced in the Chemicals Ordinance (ChemO, SR 813.11) in the revision that came into force on 1 March 2018. Its use will be obligatory as of 1 January 2022 for preparations intended for private users and that are classified as dangerous because of their physical effects or their effects on health (see Art. 15a, 49 let. d and Art. 93a ChemO)¹.

A computer application, developed by the EU, enables a UFI code to be generated (alphanumeric type xxxx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxx). In principle three elements are required to generate a unique code: country in which the company is located, company VAT number and an identification number of the preparation.

1. Preparation imported into Switzerland from a country of the European Union, and already bearing a UFI

The UFI obtained by a manufacturer located in the EU and identified on the label of the preparation is valid in Switzerland and must be used by the Swiss importer when communicating the preparation to the product register.

2. Preparation manufactured in Switzerland or imported into Switzerland from a non-EU country and intended, at least in part, to be exported to an EU country

For the part of the production exported to the EU the UFI (according to ECHA) of the preparation must be obtained with the UFI generator of ECHA by or in the name of the importer located in the EU. This UFI number may also be used for the product of the same composition commercialised in Switzerland as well as for communication with the product register.

The European importer is responsible for communicating with the poison centre(s) in the EU, but may delegate this responsibility to the manufacturer located outside the EU on condition that the UFI corresponds to the importer (country and VAT number of the importer). According to information from ECHA the centralised communication portal should contain a check of the validity of the UFI.

3. Preparation initially intended solely for the Swiss market

An UFI for preparations, which are placed on the market in Switzerland, but not in the EU, can be generated on [UFI \(Unique Formula Identifier\)](#) using the Swiss VAT number. The UFI has to be reported into the product register and to be indicated on the label.

¹ In contrast to Annex VIII of the EU CLP Regulation, the Chemicals Ordinance does not currently provide for a separate period for such preparations that were already communicated before 1.1.2022. Annex VIII of the EU CLP Regulation specifies a period up to 1.1.2025 for updating the existing communication of a preparation. The FOPH is therefore preparing an amendment to the Chemicals Ordinance with the aim of extending the period for existing communications until 1.1.2027.