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Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA

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Health Protection Directorate

05 December 2025

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

The new Unique Formula Identifier (UFI) allows the composition of preparations (mixtures), biocides, plant protection products, fertilisers and e-liquids (refill containers containing liquid in accordance with Articles 24 and 27 of the Tobacco Products Ordinance, SR 818.321) to be identified quickly in an emergency[1].

This is important so that the doctors at the Poison Information Centre — the official centre for all enquiries relating to poisoning — can reliably identify products and determine their composition. This allows them to recommend appropriate measures when needed.

In Switzerland, the UFI will be introduced for preparations (mixtures), biocidal products, plant protection products and fertilisers, as well as e-liquids that are classified as hazardous due to the health or physical risks they pose, with the following deadlines:

- From 1.1.2022: preparations, biocidal products and fertilisers newly placed on the market which are intended for private users.

- From 1.1.2022: preparations, biocidal products and fertilisers that already are labelled with a UFI. In particular, products imported from the European Economic Area (EEA) fall into this category. This ensures that the poison information centre can identify such products quickly and reliably in an emergency.

- From 1.1.2026: all other preparations, biocidal products, fertilisers and e-liquids that are classified as hazardous based on their health and physical effects.

- From 1 December 2027: all plant protection products that are classified as hazardous based on their health and physical effects.

The UFI has to be reported in the product register for chemicals as well as indicated on the products. The requirements for affixing the UFI in Switzerland comply with those set out in Annex VIII of the EU CLP Regulation, in order to avoid trade barriers wherever possible (Art. 15a of the Chemicals Ordinance, SR 813.11).

It should be noted that in Switzerland, all preparations and e-liquids that meet the criteria for the creation of a safety data sheet[2] are subject to notification. The scope of the data to be reported in Switzerland differs from that in the EU.

For preparations and e-liquids that have already been reported, it is sufficient to complete the UFI in the chemicals product register (RPC) of the Common Notification Authority for Chemicals (www.rpc.admin.ch), update other information in the report if necessary and then re-qualify the report by sending it.

[1] FAQ on the unique formula identifier at: https://www.anmeldestelle.admin.ch/en/faq-unique-formula-identifier-ufi
[2] See the guidance document 'The safety data sheet in Switzerland' available only in German under: https: https://www.anmeldestelle.admin.ch/en/guidelines-and-interpretation-aids-to-the-chemicals-legislation

For biocidal products authorised under the transitional provisions (A_N and A_C), the UFI can also be completed by the authorisation holder in the RPC. Afterwards, the Common Notification Authority for Chemicals must be informed of the change by email (cheminfo@bag.admin.ch), stating the authorisation number. This change is free of charge.

For applications for authorisation of biocidal products submitted under the procedure harmonised with the EU, the UFI and the necessary information according to Annex VIII of the EU CLP Regulation must be submitted to the Common Notification Authority for Chemicals with the application or at least 30 days before the first placing on the market. In the case of existing authorisations under the EU harmonised procedure, the authorisation holder can notify the Common Notification Authority for Chemicals via R4BP of the UFI on the respective case, including the asset number. In the case of biocidal product families according to the EU harmonised procedure, the UFIs must be indicated for all asset numbers of the members of the biocidal product family. This change is free of charge.

The changes can also be made using the mass registration tool.

Generation of the UFI
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.

The ECHA notification tool does not accept UFIs that are not issued with the VAT number of a Member State of the EEA. This means that a UFI created with the Swiss generator is not accepted in the EEA. In the interests of a pragmatic approach, the Swiss authorities therefore recommend the following:

1. **Preparations, biocidal products, plant protection products, fertilisers and e-liquids imported into Switzerland from a country of the EEA, and already bearing a UFI.**

The UFI obtained by a manufacturer located in the EEA and indicated on the preparation, the biocidal product, the plant protection product, the fertiliser or the e-liquid is also valid in Switzerland and can be used by the Swiss importer when communicating the preparation to the chemicals product register (RPC) or in the application for biocidal products, plant protection products and fertilisers. The UFI of e-liquids must be reported to Tabacinfo.

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

For the part of the production exported to the EEA the UFI (according to ECHA) must be obtained with the UFI generator of ECHA by or in the name of the importer located in the EEA. This UFI number may also be used for the product of the same composition commercialised in Switzerland as well as for communication with the RPC in case of preparations or in the application for biocidal products, plant protection products and fertilisers.

The European importer is responsible for reporting to the EEA Poison Information Centre(s) but may delegate this responsibility to the non-EEA manufacturer if the UFI corresponds to their company (country and VAT number of the importer).

3. **Products initially intended solely for the Swiss market.**

A UFI can be generated for preparations, biocidal products, plant protection products, fertilisers and e-liquids that are only marketed in Switzerland and not in the EEA using the generator provided on the website of the Common Notification Authority for Chemicals (https://www.anmeldestelle.admin.ch/en/general-information-and-ufi-generator). This requires the use of a Swiss VAT number.

The UFI must be included when registering a preparation in the RPC, when registering e-liquids with

Tabacinfo, and in application documents for biocides, plant protection products and fertilisers. Additionally, the UFI must be clearly displayed on the product.

UFI and the safety data sheet

The indication of the UFI in the safety data sheet is normally not mandatory[3], but highly recommended. The UFI must be stated in section 1.1 "Product identifier" of the safety data sheet.

[3] Exceptions include preparations that are not packaged.