

THE N-CLASS DATABASE

- [Contains approximately 7400 substances](#)

The N-Class database contains substances that have been discussed or are at present being discussed by the Commission Working Groups (CWG) on the Classification and Labelling for environmental effects. The database contains not only substances that are assessed as dangerous for the environment. It also contains substances that have not been classified (i.e. either assessed as not dangerous for the aquatic environment or not assessed as such because of insufficient data). In addition, the database gives the full record on physical/chemical, health and environmental effect classification for substances placed in Annex I of Directive 67/548/EEC.

In Annex I of Directive 67/548/EEC there are at present approximately 2900 entries, i.e. substance(s) indicated by the same Index number. The number of entries is, however, not the same as the amount of substances since one entry may cover a number of substances. In the N-Class database these substances are identified by their CAS-number. Thus, the number of "entries"/substances in the N-Class database is much higher than the number of entries in Annex I, at present approximately 7400.

- [Presents classification strategies](#)

In order to make the classification process as transparent as possible the database presents also classification strategies, i.e. criteria and praxis of their application. The praxis has been developed by the CWG on Classification and Labelling during several years. Besides presentation of the classification categories also interpretation of the basic elements in classification (i.e. toxicity, degradation and bioaccumulation) is described in detail. In addition, even substance specific data, gathered from various documents that have been discussed at CWG-meetings on environmental effects (mainly covering ecotoxicity), may be found in the N-Class database.

The classification strategies include also special cases, where the nature of the substances has required development of new classification approaches. So far for two groups of substances, i.e. metals and complex hydrocarbons special strategies have been applied.

- [Informs about the Globally Harmonized System \(GHS\) for C&L and compares GHS with the current EU- Supply and Use system](#)

The applied criteria are in accordance with Annex VI of Council Directive 67/548/EEC ("Dangerous Substance Directive") and Annex III of Council Directive 1999/45/EEC ("Dangerous Preparations Directive"). The present system for classification and Labelling is, however, foreseen to be replaced in the future by the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS).

Information about GHS and a comparison with the current EU- Supply and Use system is therefore included in the database and N-Class could be used to ensure a smooth transition between these systems.

- [Calculates aquatic classifications of preparations](#)

By using the summation method (i.e. based on hazards of the components) the N-Class database offers also a menu to calculate aquatic classifications of preparations according to Directive 1999/45/EEC as well as to the Globally Harmonized System (GHS).

