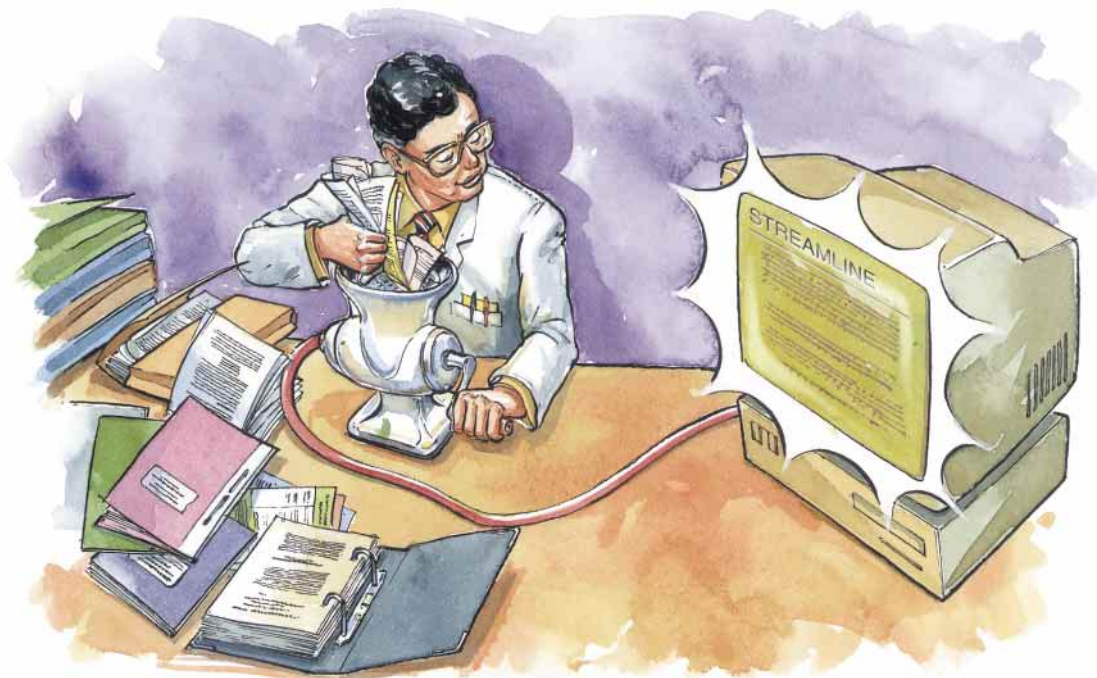


Reclassification of petroleum substances

New data and new hazard criteria necessitate a report update, now also available on the Internet.



EINECS, the European Inventory of Existing Chemical Substances, contains entries for 661 petroleum substances, all of which have to be classified and labelled under the Dangerous Substances Directive (DSD) for all the hazards that they present. Such classification has also to be mirrored in the information conveyed in the safety data sheets that must be made available for each of these substances.

In the period 1992–94, the Technical Progress Committee (TPC) Working Party considered the classification of petroleum substances under the DSD, but concentrated almost entirely on the carcinogenic hazard from these products. On a pragmatic basis, the TPC Working Party agreed with CONCAWE's suggestion that petroleum substances should be looked at on a group basis and to this end, they were allocated to 35 groups. These groups are listed in a previous *CONCAWE Review* article from April 1993 (Volume 2, Number 1).

THE 21ST ADAPTATION TO TECHNICAL PROGRESS (ATP)

The culmination of the work of the TPC Working Party was the publication of Directive 94/69/EC, the 21st ATP of the DSD. Annex I of this Directive contains entries for more than 500 petroleum substances constituting 23 groups. However, the classifications afforded to these entries were limited to the health hazards of carcinogenicity and aspiration. Further, at this time, the classification for aspiration hazard was not satisfactory in that no criteria were assigned and this hazard was only assigned to certain defined substances consisting of low boiling point naphthas and kerosines.

CONCAWE REPORT NO. 95/59

The 21st ATP of the Dangerous Substances Directive¹ requires CONCAWE companies to self-classify their substances for flammability, environmental hazard and other health hazards. Recommendations on the regulatory and self-regulatory requirements were provided by CONCAWE in the form of Report No. 95/59 (*The Classification and Labelling of Petroleum Substances according to the EU Dangerous Substances Directive*).

CONCAWE REPORT NO. 98/54

Since 1995, further data on the environmental hazard presented by petroleum substances has become available from aquatic toxicity studies commissioned by CONCAWE and its member companies. This has necessitated a revision of the advice contained in Report No. 95/59. Further, Directive 96/54/EC, the 22nd ATP to the DSD has been published and this has included criteria against which to decide whether substances pose an aspiration hazard (see *CONCAWE Review*, October 1996, Volume 5, Number 2). Additionally, a number of requirements for labelling of petroleum substances have arisen under Amendments and ATPs to the Restrictions on Marketing and Use Directive (76/769/EEC). The combination of these legislative changes and the new environmental data has resulted in CONCAWE producing an updated version of Report No. 95/59 and this is now available as Report No. 98/54 (*Classification and Labelling of Petroleum Substances according to the EU Dangerous Substances Directive (Revision 1)*).

This report is largely a reference work document and it has been included on the CONCAWE Internet web site (<http://www.concawe.be>). The information that it contains is principally intended for regulatory personnel in companies, who are concerned with national legislation relating to the classification and labelling and the provision of safety data sheets for petroleum substances.

STREAMLINE DATABASE

Although the new report (98/54) is a very useful reference source it was decided to further assist prospective users by making it available as a searchable database for installation on a personal computer.

The database, known as STREAMLINE has been created in Microsoft® Access 97 and includes all the information that is given in the new report. However, to make it easier to find information for a specific substance, the database is searchable by CAS number, EINECS number, or EU Index number. For each substance, information is provided on the classification and labelling requirements and an example label is also shown.

STREAMLINE is available, via Internet on the CONCAWE home page (<http://www.concawe.be>).

The database can be downloaded as a self-executable file and requires Microsoft Access 97 to be installed on the PC. A runtime version of STREAMLINE, not requiring Access, is also available on the website.

¹ Commission Directive 94/69/EC published in Official Journal L351 31.12.94