WHO/IPCS
INCHEM Database

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WHO/IPCS INCHEM

- Collection of 8000+ chemical-safety-related documents from IGOs (WHO, FAO, ILO, UNEP and OECD).
- Freely accessible on Internet (www.inchem.org)
- Database searchable using sophisticated search algorithm
- Included in OECD eChemPortal
Background

- Developed in response to requests from governments to make information on chemicals RA and RM widely available
- Established in 1997 between IPCS and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety (CCOHS)
- Recognized in SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy as a tool to promote chemicals management, harmonization and burden sharing
- INCHEM identified as a potential contribution from IOMC to SAICM Chemical Clearing house
- Continuing need for this information highlighted at ICCM1
Overview of available documents

- Environmental Health Criteria (EHCs)
- Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADs)
- International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs)
- Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)
- Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)
- WHO Classification of Pesticides by Hazard
- …
Online portal and search tool

- Advanced search tool, e.g.
  - Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) (mercury AND effect AND acute)
  - Multiple words in the same sentence (thallium <SENTENCE> convulsion)
  - Search keywords only in document titles ((poisoning AND fungi)<IN>title)
  - Search only specific document types

INCHEM use statistics

➢ In 2008:
  • > 2.5 million visitors (= 5 visitors/minute)
  • > 4.6 million sessions (= 9 sessions/minute)

➢ 2006 user survey showed that:
  • 91% rated service as useful or very useful
  • 43% use service at least monthly; many weekly or daily
  • 55% work for Government or Non-profit organizations
Most requested documents

Number of sessions by document types - 2008

- EHCs
- PIMs
- ICSC's
- JECFA - Monog
- JMPR - Monog
- IARC
- CICADS
- SIDs
- JECFA - Eval
- HSGs
- PDS
- Antidote Monog
- PDS - Class
- JMPR - Eval

Number of sessions (in thousands)
Conclusion

- Cost-effective means of disseminating chemical-safety related information
- Flexible search strategy allows to find specific information
- Widely used in both developing & developed countries
- Very positive feedback from users
- Database regularly updated
- Access through [http://www.inchem.org](http://www.inchem.org)
Thank you!