



OECD ACTIVITIES ON PRTR, COMPARABILITY OF PRTR

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Question

- What kind of studies, guidance or technical works are being carried out by the PRTR TF on these issues? What are, in your view, the main problems in getting a better level of comparability worldwide?
- ¿Qué tipo de estudios, orientaciones o trabajos técnicos se están llevando a cabo por el PRTR TF en estos temas?. ¿Cuáles son, desde su punto de vista, los principales problemas en la obtención de un mejor nivel de comparabilidad a nivel mundial?



OECD activities on PRTR

Examples of completed projects:

- Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs): A Tool for Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development - Guidance Manual for Governments
- Resource Compendium of PRTR Release Estimation Techniques:
 - Point Source Techniques, Diffuse Source Techniques including Releases from Products, Techniques for Off-site Transfers
- Proposal for a Harmonised List of Pollutants, Harmonised List of Sectors
- More than 15 documents for helping a country to develop/improve a PRTR

Examples of On-going projects:

- Guidance on elements of a PRTR
- Sustainability and PRTR
- PRTR.net (maintained by UNECE): <http://prtr.net/>
- PRTR Data Centre: www.oecd.org/env/prtr/data
- PRTR Resource Centre for Release Estimation Techniques: www.oecd.org/env/prtr/rc
- IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management (work with the other IGOs including UNITAR): <http://iomctoolbox.oecd.org/>

Outcomes are available at: www.oecd.org/env/prtr



main problems in getting a better level of comparability worldwide

- PRTR systems often vary in terms of:
 - *Purpose (every country has its own needs)*
 - Definition of terms (e.g. release and transfer)
 - Chemicals covered
 - Regulated entities
 - Reporting thresholds
 - Inclusion of diffuse sources
 - Mandatory or voluntary reporting
 - Dissemination of data
 - Release estimation techniques
 - Reporting cycle
 - Confidentiality provisions
 - Description of entities (e.g. industry classification)
- OECD (2001) Why Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) Differ: A Review of National Programmes. [ENV/JM/MONO(2001)16].*
- Once a legislation has been developed, it is often difficult to change.



For example, chromium and its compounds

CAS Number	Pollutant Name	Australia NPI	Canada NPRI	EU E-PRTR	Kiev Protocol	Japan PRTR	US TRI
LCL-11	Chromium and compounds (as Cr) (E-PRTR: total mass in all chemical forms)			x	x		
7440-47-3	Chromium						x
LCL-12	Chromium Compounds (except chromite ore mined in the Transvaal region)						x
LCL-13	Chromium (and its compounds), excludes hexavalent chromium (and its compounds)		x				
LCL-14	Chromium III compounds / chromium and chromium(III) compounds	x				x	
LCL-15	Chromium VI compounds / Hexavalent chromium (and its compounds)	x	x			x	

OECD (2012) Global Pollutant Release and Transfer Register, Proposal for a Harmonised List of Pollutants.

[ENV/JM/MONO(2012)9]



Efforts to improve comparability

- Kiev Protocol
- European PRTR (E-PRTR)
- Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC): North American countries
- UNITAR's Guidance
- OECD:
 - Harmonised lists of pollutants and reporting sectors
 - Resource Compendium of PRTR Release Estimation Techniques
 - OECD Centre for PRTR Data: PRTR data as widely as possible within the OECD area, and more.



An important point

Optimizing a PRTR system to fulfil its national needs, while pursuing global application as possible.

“PRTR systems should allow as far as possible comparison and co-operation with other national PRTR systems and possible harmonization with similar international data bases.”

Recommendation of the Council on Implementing Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) OECD, 1996 amended 2003