Changes to NPIC annual retainer fees: FAQs

What is changing?

The annual retainer fees for using the National Poisons Information Centre (NPIC) emergency telephone number on Safety Data Sheets (SDS) will change from **1 January 2027**.

The new annual fees will be:

- **€380 (excl. VAT)** for companies notifying fewer than 10 products
- **€1,245 (excl. VAT)** for companies notifying 10 or more products

Why are the fees increasing?

The current fees were introduced in 1997 and have remained unchanged for almost 30 years.

The new fees reflect the increase in the Irish Consumer Price Index since January 1997. The change is therefore an adjustment for inflation rather than an increase in the real value of the retainer.

How were the new fees calculated?

The Consumer Price Index increased by approximately **91%** over the period used for the calculation. This increase was applied to the existing fees:

- €200 increased to **€380**
- €650 increased to **€1,245**

When will the new fees take effect?

The new fees will apply from **1 January 2027**. The existing fees will remain in place until 31 December 2026.

What does the annual retainer cover?

The retainer authorises a company to use the NPIC emergency telephone number in Section 1.4 of its SDS for products placed on the Irish market.

Why must the NPIC emergency telephone number be included on the SDS?

The NPIC emergency telephone number must be included in Section 1.4 of the SDS for hazardous mixtures within the scope of CLP Article 45 that are being placed on the Irish market.

REACH Annex II requires the SDS to include an emergency telephone number. It states that where an official advisory body exists in the Member State in which the mixture is placed on the market, *"its telephone number shall be given and can suffice."* The NPIC is the appointed body for Ireland. It is permitted to include (in addition) an external emergency number, as appropriate.

Note: The NPIC number may only be used after the required Poison Centre Notification (PCN) has been submitted and the Poison Centre Registration has been completed, this includes providing a signed copy of the Agreement & indemnity payment of the annual retainer fees.

What if my product is outside the scope of CLP Article 45?

CLP Article 45 applies to mixtures classified as hazardous because of their health or physical effects. It does not apply to individual substances, non-hazardous mixtures or mixtures classified only for environmental hazards. Certain other exemptions also apply, including some research mixtures, gases under pressure and explosives.

For substances and mixtures outside the scope of Article 45, the supplier may provide its own emergency number, or the number of a suitably qualified third-party service, in Section 1.4 of the SDS. Any limitations on that service, such as its opening hours, must be stated.

The NPIC number may still be used provided a voluntary submission has been completed via the ECHA PCN portal and the Poison Centre Registration is complete.

Who qualifies for the lower fee?

The annual fee of €380 applies to companies notifying fewer than 10 products. Companies notifying 10 or more products will pay the annual fee of €1,245.

Are the fees subject to VAT?

Yes. The fees are quoted excluding VAT. VAT will be added at the applicable rate.

Is the retainer the same as a Poison Centre Notification (PCN)?

No. They are separate processes.

A PCN provides the information needed by the NPIC to respond to an emergency involving a hazardous mixture. All PCNs for products placed on the Irish market must be submitted through the European Chemicals Agency's submission portal (ECHA).

The annual retainer relates specifically to permission to use the NPIC emergency telephone number on a SDS.

Completing a PCN does not, by itself, authorise a company to use the NPIC telephone number. The steps to register for use of the Poison Centres emergency telephone number are listed on poisons.ie

https://poisons.ie/industry-manufacturers/safety-data-sheets/

Can a company use the NPIC number before paying the retainer?

No. The NPIC emergency telephone number may only be used after the required PCN has been submitted and the Poison Centre Registration is complete.

Do companies need to update their SDSs because the fee is changing?

No. The NPIC telephone number is not changing, the SDS does not need to be updated solely because the retainer fee has changed.

Does a company need to take any action now?

Companies should check that their contact details, billing information and number of notified products are correct.

The applicable new fee will appear on the company's 2027 renewal documentation and invoice.

What happens if the number of products changes?

Companies should notify the NPIC if the number of products covered by their retainer changes, particularly where this may move the company into a different fee category.

What happens if a company does not renew?

A company that does not renew its annual retainer will no longer be authorised to use the NPIC emergency telephone number on its SDSs.

The NPIC number is required in Section 1.4 of an SDS for any hazardous mixture within the scope of CLP Article 45 that is placed on the Irish market. An external emergency number may also be included but it does not replace the requirement to provide the NPIC number. A company wishing to continue placing these mixtures on the Irish market must therefore maintain its annual retainer.

For substances or mixtures outside the scope of CLP Article 45, the supplier may use its own competent emergency service or a suitable third-party provider instead.

Are there any other changes to the service?

No. The fee revision does not change the service provided or the existing arrangements for authorised use of the NPIC emergency telephone number.

Useful Links

https://poisons.ie/industry-manufacturers/

https://www.hsa.ie/eng/your_industry/chemicals/guidance_support/

https://poisons.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/poison_centre_notifications_for_hazardous_chemical_mixtures_in_ireland_information_sheet.pdf

https://poisoncentres.echa.europa.eu/steps-for-industry