

4. Search: Useful pointers

Information about search criteria

The "Search" form can be used to look for specific facilities, pollutants or waste amounts. You can customise your search by combining a number of search criteria. The available selection criteria only cover information which the operator of the facility is obliged to report to the EU and the national PRTR.

General remarks:

- all the data shown on the "Search results" page are shown as a list of facilities and can be downloaded (as a pdf- or an Excel document)
- Please note that you must limit certain search boxes to "all" or "individual"; otherwise you will receive an error message.

About the individual search criteria:

- **Reporting year:** is pre-set to the current reporting year. Select other years from the menu as desired. Data is reported to the EU on 31 March and 30 September of every year.
- **Name of facility:** use this search box to enter the name of the facility you are looking for.
- **Confidentiality:** operators may label certain information as confidential in some cases. If you want to do a search for limited reporting on grounds of confidentiality of information, select "yes" and you will see the names of all the facilities that have labelled data as confidential. Then click on the "Detail" icon for a selected facility to get detailed information on their confidential data. For more information on confidentiality go to the side "Question/Answer" under the menu item "Information" on www.thru.de.
- **Location:** you can enter either a postal code or a town/city here. The first digit of a postal code is enough to do a search as this will be more inclusive.
- **River basin:** the river basin in which a facility releases pollutants to water is relevant for the reporting procedure. The identification of a river basin occurs in accordance with Article 3 Para. 1 of the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC). Enter the name of the river basin you are looking for in this search box.
- **Operator/Owner:** the owner of the property where a facility is located, is usually also the owner of the facility. The owner of a property is identified in the land register. The owner of a facility may be but is not necessarily the operator of the facility on the basis of the E-PRTR Regulation. If the owner of a facility also runs the facility, he is also its operator. However, if the owner gives rights of disposal to another entity, e.g. a tenant, leaseholder or lessee, owner and operator are not identical.
- **Parent company:** a parent company is an enterprise owned by the operator of the facility.

- **Land (federal state):** it is possible to do search in the different *Länder*. There are two ways to do this:
 - "All": will search the whole country; that is, for all *Länder*;
 - "Baden-Württemberg" ... "Thuringia": limits the search to the selected *Land* or *Länder*.
- **Main activity / non-main activity:** the operator of a facility must classify all releases and transfers in a main activity. If other industrial activities are pursued in addition to the main activity, the operator must register these as non-main activities. The facility's main activity on the basis of PRTR is usually classified as that which is most relevant to the environment. All emissions and disposal of waste are associated with the main activity of the facility. You can search both main activity and secondary activities in thru.de.
- **NACE Code (Nomenclature des Activités économiques dans les Communautés Européennes):** the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community, based on Regulation (EC) No. 1893/2006. In this search box you can select from a list either the name of the sector you are looking for or the associated NACE Code.
- **Sectors:** there are 9 sectors in the PRTR. You can select the desired sector of industry from the list in the search box.
- **Activities:** the PRTR subjects 65 activities to reporting requirements. These 65 activities are classified in nine sectors of industry. The focus is on industrial activity and not – as is often assumed – on the main business activity of a facility. You can select an activity from the list in this search box.
- **Pollutant group:** there are 7 pollutant groups in the PRTR. You can select the desired pollutant group from the list in the search box.
- **Pollutant:** E-PRTR requires operators to report on up to 91 pollutants and pollutant groups. The name of the pollutant may be treated as confidential in the PRTR, whereby the operator must indicate the pollutant group instead of the name of the pollutant. You can select the desired pollutant from the list in the search box.
- **Air/Water/Soil/Wastewater:** the E-PRTR Regulation makes provisions for the PRTR to report discharges to the environmental media air, water and soil as well as the disposal of pollutants contained in wastewater. Four environmental media can be selected here.
- **Methods of determination:** the PRTR requires operators to report the methods used to determine their emissions (releases) and transfers. This information is based on a simplified system of three categories, each labelled with a letter:
 - **Category M:** Release and transfer data is based on measurements ("M" – Measurement)
 - **Category C:** Release and transfer data is based on calculations ("C" – Calculation)
 - **Category E:** Release and transfer data is based on estimations ("E" – Estimation)

- **Pollutant amounts (kg/a):** Pollutant amounts reported in PRTR are rounded off to three significant digits and given in kg/a. You can assess either total amount (kg/a) or accidental emissions (kg/a). The default setting is "Total Amount".
- **Waste:** Waste amounts reported in PRTR are rounded off to three significant digits and given in t/a. There are two categories of waste to choose from.

What do the different measurement and calculation methods mean?

When data reported is based on measurements or calculations ("M" or "C"), the method applied must also be reported. The various measurement and calculation methods are:

- **ALT (M):** (ALternative measurement method), in compliance with existing CEN/ISO measurement standards
- **CRM (M):** measurement method whose efficiency has been proven by means of Certified Reference Materials and has been approved by the competent authority
- **INT (C) ETS:** established guidelines for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions under ETS (Emission Trade Scheme)
- **INT (M) CEN/ISO:** internationally recognised measurement standard (according to CEN or ISO standards)
- **MAB (C):** (MAss Balance method), accepted by the competent authority
- **NRB (M):** Nationally or Regionally Binding measurement method established by legal provision for a certain pollutant and the concerned facility
- **NRB (C):** Nationally or Regionally Binding calculation method established by legal provision for a certain pollutant and the concerned facility
- **OTH (M):** OTHer measurement methodology
- **OTH (C):** OTHer calculation methodology
- **PER (C):** calculation method that has been determined by the competent authority in the course of an authorisation or licensing procedure for the facility (PERmit)
- **PER (M):** measurement method that has been determined by the responsible authority in the course of an authorisation or licensing procedure for the facility (PERmit)
- **SSC:** (Sector Specific Calculation), recognised throughout Europe
- **Other (M):** other/no method
- **Other (C):** other/no method
- **INT (C) UN-ECE/EMEP:** method of taking inventory of air emissions according to the UN-ECE/EMEP "EMEP/CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook 2005"