Paper Presentation - Working Title:
Electronic Data Management in Austrian Waste Management Law 2002

Authors:
Franz Mochty, Head of Unit 4/VI of Austrian Ministry for Life,
Eva Rosenberger, Unit 4/VI of Austrian Ministry for Life,
Evelyn Wolfslehner, Head of Unit 2/VI of Austrian Ministry for Life,
Gottfried Steiner, GUA GmbH
Thomas Pawlin, Trust Consult GmbH

The new Austrian Waste Management Law 2002 opens the possibility to monitor, administrate and exchange waste and environmental related data electronically. The overarching goal is to substitute paper based systems for reporting and administration with modern innovative electronic structures. Core of the new regulation is the setting up of Electronic Registers for the strictly separated administration of master data and variable data. Variable data are waste related data required by e.g. landfill ordinance, hazardous waste regulations, or data of emissions to air and water.
The Registers have to be implemented by 2003, all reporting and monitoring duties due to waste management regulations should be executed by using the Electronic Register at 2005. It will be expected that the register will have 50.000 accesses per month executing 500.000 to 1,000.000 administration acts per year.
For reporting and data exchange several technical solutions will be provided. Firstly, companies having large data quantities to report Electronic Data Interchange based on UN/EDIFACT and XML will be offered. Secondly, a web portal will be installed for companies with low data quantity or insufficient back office systems. Prerequisite of the project is the standardised definition of master data and variable data. While prior reporting and monitoring have suffered from insufficient compatibility of data registered according to different laws, the new project will try to avoid conflicts not only at the national administration level, but also at business and international level. Data definition and messages are based on the standard UN/EDIFACT. For international harmonisation the ministry for life cooperates and participates in the UN/cefact Working Group D 15 “Environmental and Safety Management” and in the international project “EUDIN – European Data Interchange on Waste Notification System”. For harmonisation with business standards, EAN International and the Austrian national member organisation EAN Austria providing the multi-industry standard EANCOM and international unambiguous identification systems are supporting the setting up of the Electronic Register in Austria.
The first practical step for the Electronic Register will be the EPER ordinance. The European Commission builds up an European Pollution Release Register (EPER) of in general large companies causing defined impacts on the environment. The information reported will be public and free accessed at a European web portal. Member states are obliged to report to the European Commission and to gain national data by obliging companies to report their data relevant for the European Commission. In the case of EPER, not only companies from the waste management sector, but also from other branches are affected. National reporting and administration will be carried out using the Electronic Registers.
At the conference, details on applications, reporting and monitoring duties, communication structure and architecture of the Electronic Register will be provided. First results of the EPER reporting project, strategies and plans for further steps will be presented.