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Responsible Care Report 2021

October 2023

Fecc RESPONSIBLE CARE REPORT 2021 (Data 2020)

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1. Level of Responsible Care Participation in Europe (Fecc Membership)

The *Fecc* Member National Associations (NAs) have developed – over the last 20-25 years - local Responsible Care (RC) programmes in line with the *ICTA* Joint Responsible Care / Responsible Distribution Programme.

To obtain the right to use the Responsible Care logo, the NA must comply with the Responsible Care rules and sign a partnership agreement with the local manufacturers' association, endorsed by *Fecc* and *Cefic*.

Each year, *Fecc* collects a series of statistical data from its National Associations and Company Members (*Fecc* Survey). The collection, analysis and interpretation of this data allows *Fecc* to draw conclusions in different areas, amongst them Responsible Care and related KPIs (Key Performance Indicators). Regarding Responsible Care implementation, the percentage of distribution companies belonging to this voluntary initiative over the period 2009-2020 is 69%, while in 2020 the average amounts to 73%, roughly the same participation level as the last five years (see Figure 1), so no change to the previous years, i.e. a certain 'plateau' seems to be reached.

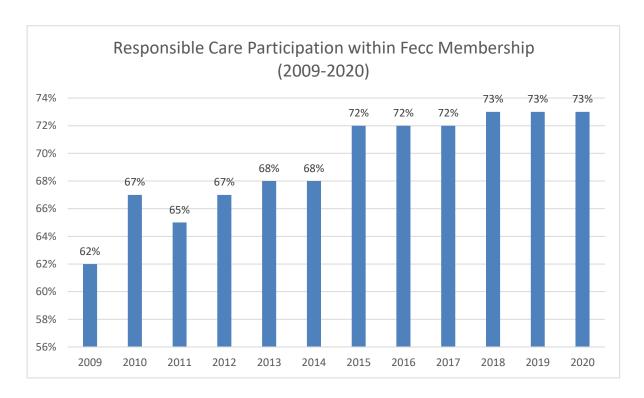


Figure 1: General Level of Responsible Care Participation in Fecc Membership (Data Fecc Survey 2021): Average per year in percentage.

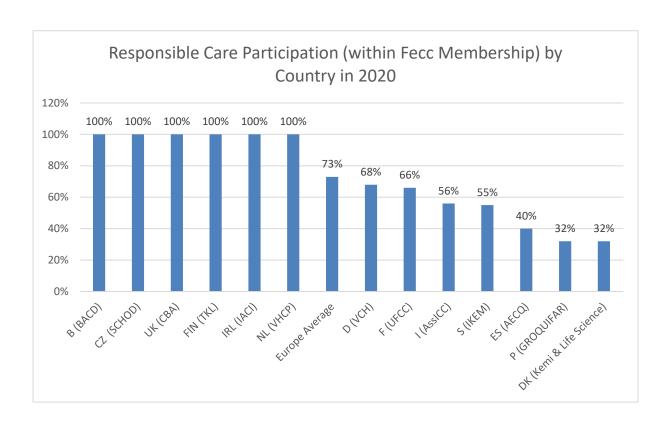


Figure 2: Level of Responsible Care Participation in Europe (Fecc Membership) per Country (Data Fecc Survey 2021)

The second graph (Figure 2) displays the results by country in 2019 and illustrates that significant differences in terms of Responsible Care implementation still exist when looking at the situation country by country. Regrettably, no substantial change can be observed across Europe. It is worth noticing that in Belgium, Ireland, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, and the United Kingdom the Responsible Care participation is at 100% - this can be explained by the fact that Responsible Care participation is mandatory for National Association membership. The *Fecc* Responsible Care Committee continues its efforts to improve the situation further and calls on the National Associations concerned to improve their commitment to Responsible Care.

The tables in ANNEX I (pp. 16-18) show in detail the "hard figures" behind the percentage for each year. The calculation of the percentage per country is based on the figures provided by the NAs. The second column refers to the survey question "number of distributors committed to Responsible Care".

Finally, we should take into consideration that the graph does not show the Responsible Care performance of Austria (*Wirtschaftskammer Österreich*, *WKÖ*) and Switzerland (*Scienceindustries*, *SGCI*), as these are special cases. In Austria three companies out of a total of 225 chemical distributors have a commitment to Responsible Care, and Switzerland does not

communicate Responsible Care data to *Fecc* as this country reports directly to the *European Council of Chemical Manufacturers* (*Cefic*), but *SGCI* might communicate Responsible Care data additionally to *Fecc* in the future.

The figures and graphs in ANNEX II (pp. 19-22) reveal the level of performance in the period 2013-2019 as regards the 8 Guiding Principles.

As regards 'Risk Management', the Lost Time Injury Rate (LTIR) used in our graph (see Figure 3) is defined as the number of accidents leading to a minimum of 3 lost workdays per one million worked hours. The graph reveals a downward trend in the LTIR evolution from a peak in 2012 (10.86) to a European rate oscillating around 6.5 in the period 2013-2016 and a further decrease to 3.55 in 2018, and then an increase to 5.93 in 2019 and 5.73 in 2020 respectively.



Figure 3: LTIR Evolution in Europe (Fecc Membership) 2010-2019 (Data Fecc Surveys 2010-2020).

Due to a lack of harmonization in Europe direct comparisons of the LTIR are difficult. However, it is possible to illustrate the trend by country in this field based on figures provided by the NAs, see ANNEX III (pp. 23-27).

The Secretariat will continue its analysis exploring how and to what extent the parameters in different countries differ, particularly whether the type of accidents/incidents communicated is

comparable and how the number of working hours is counted. This research aims at harmonizing input parameters to enhance the comparability of data.

2. Review of the Fecc European Responsible Care Programme

2.1. The Fecc European Responsible Care Programme

The Programme's core principles are based on the eight guiding principles of the *International Chemical Trade Association's (ICTA)* Joint Responsible Care / Responsible Distribution Programme. It offers harmonized implementation in Europe, and it is tailor-made for the distribution sector. The Programme provides appropriate tools to demonstrate distributors' responsible handling and use of chemicals. Moreover, it simultaneously addresses the stakeholders' expectations about the distributors' activities. One key element of the Programme is the mandatory Third-Party Verification (TPV) of the company's compliance with Responsible Care requirements (e. g. use of ESAD assessment system as one of the possible tools for a basis of TPV).

The *Fecc* European Responsible Care Programme is tailored for distributors in countries where no chemical distributor association exist, that is, especially Central and Eastern European countries. In addition to this option, NAs have the possibility to use the Programme as their own or they can outsource their Responsible Care activities to *Fecc*. The Programme also addresses Pan-European companies that — with previous authorisation of their NA - may apply to *Fecc* for the Responsible Care Programme in the countries where Responsible Care is already run by NAs. An amendment to the *Fecc* Responsible Care Programme, worked out by the Responsible Care Committee, and which is part of Version 2.3. since January 2016, introduces – by exception – the possibility of a Second-Party Verification under certain conditions. This alternative has not been used yet.

As regards the further development of the Programme, a proposal was made and approved how to integrate the Responsible Care Self-Assessment excel and webtool, thus allowing a step forward in the direction of digital solutions (see also chapter 2.5).

2.2. Fecc European Responsible Care Programme Participation

As regards the *Fecc* European Responsible Care Programme, there is a small number of Pan-European distributor companies in the programme, with some entities 'on hold' for the time being. In 2021, one Evaluation Report was submitted to the Responsible Care Committee which - according to a standard procedure - approves the prolongation (3 years) of the use of the Responsible Care logo, confirmed in an Authorization Report and Responsible Care Attestation issued by *Fecc*. The Evaluation/Authorization Reports are an integral part of the Programme and are intended to analyse the company's TPV assessment and improvement plans to enable a decision on granting permanent use of the Responsible Care logo.

Two NAs (*AECQ*, Spain and *BACD*, Belgium) have adapted the *Fecc* European Responsible Care Programme. One NA (*GROQUIFAR*, Portugal) uses the *Fecc* European Responsible Care Programme.

2.3. ESAD and Responsible Care

Since 2004, ESAD (European Single Assessment Document) is a joint initiative of the chemical manufactures (*Cefic*) and distributors (*Fecc*) that offers a tool for assessing Health, Safety, Security and Environmental Protection (HSSE) compliance of the chemical distribution companies. ESAD is designed around the Eight Guiding Principles of the *ICTA* Joint Responsible Care/Responsible Distribution Programme and therefore provides an excellent TPV tool for assessing the distributors' compliance with the Responsible Care programme. A SQAS/ESAD Distributors assessment does not lead to a certificate but offers a detailed factual report which each chemical company needs to evaluate according to its own requirements.

Key principles of ESAD:

- Eight RC Guiding Principles as specified in the *ICTA* programme are included.
- Validity of the report is for three years.
- An improvement plan can be uploaded in the relevant section of the report.
- Reports are digitally available.
- Reports can only be seen by selected users (e.g. *Fecc*) who have been granted access to the individual report.

The current <u>SQAS / ESAD Questionnaires 2019</u>, replacing the revised version ESAD 2015 (integrating CSR/Sustainability issues and incorporating enhanced questions to address the European Commission requirements in terms of security), which are now used in all SQAS assessments, were launched in January 2019 (for more details see the embedded link). In this context, *Fecc*'s key objective remained to align the new Questionnaires with the new *TfS* (*Together for Sustainability*) Questionnaire and thus achieve recognition of ESAD by *TfS*. The SQAS Core has also now been adopted as the basis of the ESAD Questionnaire, supplemented by any questions in the Di document not covered in the SQAS Core. Existing questions and guidelines in ESAD 'Site' Questionnaire are now intelligently aligned/updated with revised Transport Service / Warehouse / Tank Cleaning modules content.

In 2021, three Working Groups on the Revision of the Questionnaires 2019 were set up:

- ➤ for ESAD F&G and Questionnaires 2022
- for ESAD Chlorinated Solvents.
- ➤ for SQAS Core Questionnaire with ESAD Supplement as well as ESAD Site (S)

Regarding the inclusion of Scope 3 (Section 9) GHG Questions into ESAD PAD a specific *Fecc* Viewpoint was elaborated and submitted to *Cefic* and then later approved:

Fecc viewpoint on excluding questions on Scope 3 GHG emissions from the ESAD 2022 questionnaires and including them in the ESAD 2022 PAD.

The Fecc RC Committee has previously considered that the questions on Scope 3 GHG emissions should not be included within the ESAD 2022 questionnaires, and proposed to the ESAD Steering Committee that more time should be given to fully consider the impact of questions on Scope 3 GHG emissions, delaying alignment until a future revision of ESAD.

At the ESAD Steering Committee meeting of 6th October 2021, a compromise was suggested, whereby the Scope 3 questions be included in the ESAD PAD, rather than in the ESAD questionnaires themselves.

In implementing this proposal, the current questions on Scope 3 GHG emissions within the Transport Service questionnaire would be simplified and placed in the ESAD PAD. No scoring would be applied to these questions, but it would make information on whether distributors collect data on the GHG emissions of their transport contractors available for future reference. This would enable consideration of whether to move Scope 3 GHG questions into the ESAD questionnaires at a future revision, after 2022. Consequently, no questions on, or references to, Scope 3 GHG emissions would be placed in the ESAD 2022 questionnaires.

Conclusion: the viewpoint of the Fecc Responsible Care Committee is that this compromise is consistent with the objectives of its original proposal to the ESAD Steering Committee and should be accepted.

Since 2018 new questions on alternative schemes (*Ecovadis*, *TfS*) are integrated into the *Fecc* Annual Survey – based on the analysis of a *TfS*-ESAD Survey among Committee Members.

An ESAD F&G Workshop & Training for Assessors, at a *Hedinger* (*Fecc* Member Company) site in Central Germany in conjunction with Cefic and an external consultancy (MB-QAR) was organized on 14-15 January 2020. 16 Assessors enjoyed the outstanding hospitality offered by Hedinger's Managing Director Frank Milek on Hedinger's premises at Teutschenthal near Halle/Saale, Saxony-Anhalt. The programme covered topics such as "storage in tanks and silos", "Loading/Unloading", "dispatch and transport", "(re-)packaging", "warehousing", "Product Stewardship", "Quality Management", and diverse "corrective actions". The highlights consisted of several site tours, during which product reception/unloading sampling, testing, release, packaging, and warehousing of products could be observed by the participants who were actively engaged and enthusiastic about all the explanations they received form the experts. Differences between industrial chemicals and pharmaceutical starting materials were also explained. At the end, the assessors had to undergo a written examination. Updated on the 2019 SQAS/ESAD Questionnaires and enriched by numerous insights, not only the assessors but also the joint organization team (Hedinger/Fecc/Cefic/MB-QAR) came to the overall conclusion that the next training should not wait again seven years (looking at the past intervals: 2006-2013-2020).

On 10 December 2020, a SQAS Logistics & Distributors Workshop was held with the objective to illustrate how companies use the SQAS system and, hence get insight how to improve the system. *Fecc* member *Ravago* made a presentation on the use of ESAD.

Since spring 2021 *Cefic*'s partnership associations are entitled to nominate a candidate for a seat in the SQAS Executive Committee. These seats with voting rights allows representatives form companies, member of these associations, to leverage their expertise and be the voice of each specific sector. For chemical distribution, a company representative form *Hedinger* was nominated, elected, and approved by the ESAD Steering Committee and SQAS Executive Committee for a period of two years (rotating then to a representative from *Univar Solutions*).

Regarding SQAS/ESAD data, the data cycle is consistent with the three-year cycle of assessment renewals (see Figures 4-7 below) with a historic low in for chemical distribution in 2020 (33) and a general downwards trend since a peak in 2018 (from 1020 to 960 in 2019 and only 851 in 2020).

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Transport Service	401	413	444	464	440	504	551	510	544	572	573	547	489
Cleaning Stations	164	131	165	190	191	197	221	190	245	253	248	231	228
Rail Operators	9	7	14	4	12	30	17	20	37	17	30	35	27
Warehouses	35	38	43	62	69	45	78	73	64	85	77	82	74
ESAD (Distributors)	66	111	95	74	102	120	63	110	89	44	92	65	33
Total	675	700	761	794	814	896	930	903	979	971	1020	960	851

Figure 4: Number of SQAS Assessments per Module and Year (Cefic SQAS/ESAD Statistics) – Table.

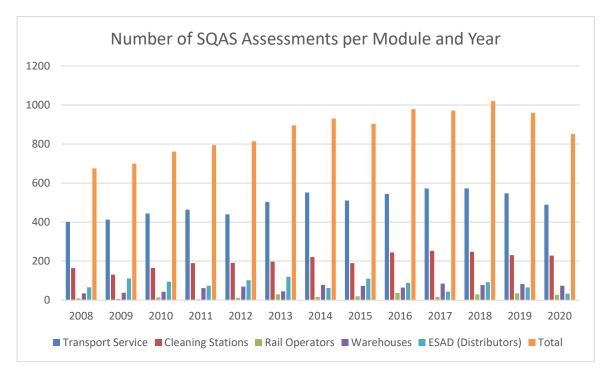


Figure 5: Number of SQAS Assessments per Module and Year (Cefic SQAS/ESAD Statistics) – Graph.

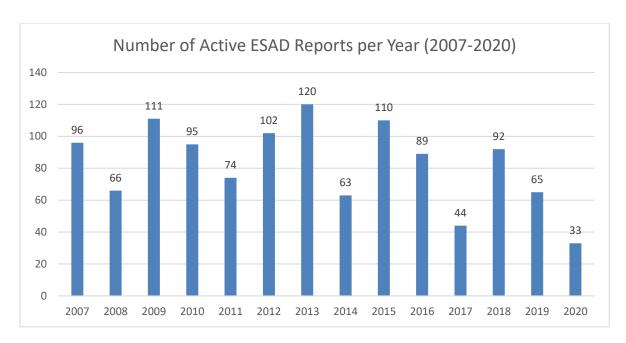


Figure 6: Number of Active ESAD Reports per Year (Cefic SQAS/ESAD Statistics).

A closer look at the Distributors/ESAD module by section in 2019 reveals that 65 ESAD Site reports were registered in Di (Distributor Standard Activities), and

- 56 in S (Site),
- 24 in CS (Chlorinated Solvents),
- 27 in F (Food, Cosmetics and Pharma),
- 17 in G (Good Trade and Distribution Practices).

This overview of the past evolution needs to be put in perspective to the new structure introduced by the new SQAS/ESAD Questionnaires 2019 applicable since 2020 (Figure 7):

Section	Number of assessments in 2020
Core + ESAD Supplement	33
Site	28
Cs	12
F&G (1)	7

Figure 7: Number of Assessments in 2020 by Section

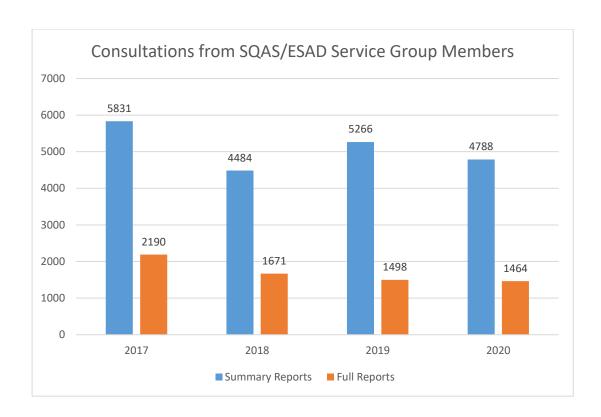


Figure 8: Consultations from SQAS/ESAD Service Group Members (2017-2020)

Figures 8 and 9 demonstrate a clear downward trend as regards consultations of full reports compared to consultations of summary reports. However, for a clear-cut conclusion a longer period has to be observed.

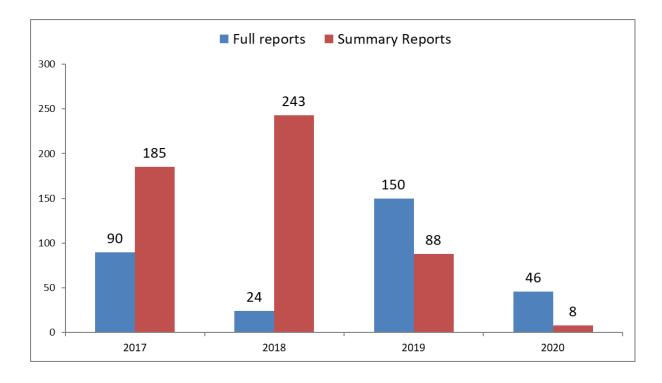


Figure 9: Number of consultations of ESAD Reports by Chemical Companies (2017-2020)

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered discussions on the possibility of remote assessments in the SQAS Technical & Accreditation Committee as well as in the ESAD Steering Committee which led to sufficiently successful pilot partial remote assessments and finally resulted in a guidance document outlining the rules and recommendations how to carry out remote SQAS Assessments. After an in-depth debate the ESAD Steering Committee decided to extend the validity of ESAD assessments until 31 August 2020, which was prolonged at a later discussion – based on the evolution of the pandemic - until 31 December 2020. As regards measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SQAS system, a dedicated SQAS T&A Meeting on 7 December 2020 decided the following extension of cut-off dates for remote assessments:

- 30 June 2021: limit for remote assessments
- 30 September 2021: limit for onsite assessments linked to remote assessments.

<u>Furthermore</u>, new <u>SQAS Service Group Operating Rules</u> were published in July 2020. (see also <u>SQAS website</u> for all SQAS related documents).

2.4. Fecc Responsible Care Committee

The *Fecc* Responsible Care Committee consists of Company Responsible Care Coordinators, as well as National Association Representatives. Since December 2011, the Responsible Care Chairman is Robert Stuyt, Secretary General of the Dutch National Association of Chemical Distributors *VHCP*.

The *Fecc* Secretariat and the Responsible Care Committee offer support and practical help to companies and NAs which implement Responsible Care across Europe. In 2021, *Fecc* organised three Responsible Care Committee Meetings - thus providing a platform for Responsible Care Coordinators and Responsible Care National Association Representatives to interact and share best practices. During the Responsible Care Committee Meetings in 2020 the following presentations were made:

- EU-OSHA Campaign 'Healthy Workplaces Lighten the Load 2020-22' (Fecc Media Partnership).
- Belgian National Association BACD on Responsible Care Good Practices and Responsible Care Implementation in Belgium.

Swedish National Association IKEM on Responsible Care Good Practices and

Responsible Care Implementation in Sweden.

Since 2017 the renewed cooperation with Cefic is based on an updated version of the

Responsible Care Partnership Agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) which was signed

by the DGs of the two associations. This agreement aims at endorsing the ongoing close

cooperation between both parties in the promotion and implementation of Responsible Care

initiatives all over Europe. In this context, Fecc suggested that its Member National

Associations refresh and re-evaluate their national Responsible Care Partnership Agreement

with their respective national Manufacturers Association.

Fecc continued to play an active role in Cefic's Responsible Care Rejuvenation Issue Team

which was formed end of 2017 to strengthen the RC initiative in Europe.

2.5. Fecc Responsible Care Self-Assessment Webtool

After a Fecc Working Group, led by CBA, adjusted the Cefic Responsible Care Self-Assessment

Excel Tool to chemical distributors and approved by the Committee as well as accepted by

Cefic, the Committee also approved the cooperation with IT service provider ARCADIS for the

technical adjustments which were made in the first quarter of 2020 after a brief kick-off

meeting. The launch of the tool took place on 28 April 2020, in a virtual format, due to the

COVID-19 pandemic which set in during March 2020.

The next step was the development of a Responsible Care Self-Assessment Webtool which is

based on the Excel Tool (Questionnaire) and which was launched on 9 December 2020 for the

Fecc Membership. In the framework of the roll-out of this digital tool across Europe, the

following joint launch webinars with *Fecc*'s National Associations were organized in 2021:

➤ Switzerland (Sciencesindustries): 11 February 2021

> Spain (AECQ): 24 February 2021

➤ Germany (VCH): 09 March 2021

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➤ Portugal (GROQUIFAR): 25 March 2021

➤ Sweden (IKEM): 19 April 2021

Belgium (BACD): 22 April 2021

➤ Finland (TKL): 31 May 2021

➤ Ireland (IACI): 04 June 2021

France (UFCC): 17 June 2021

Netherlands (VHCP): 24 June and 12 October 2021

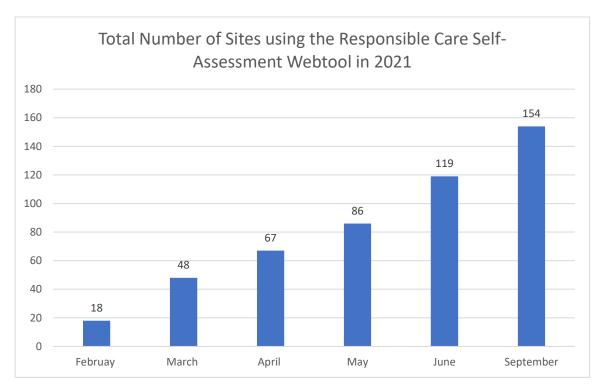


Figure 12: Evolution of Number of Sites using the Responsible Care Self-Assessment Webtool in 2021

In total

- ✓ 6 HQs created an account.
- ✓ 154 sites created an account.
- ✓ Accounts created in 19 different countries.
- ✓ 99 sites submitted the self-assessment (deadline 31/07/2021).

In this context, a proposal was made how to integrate the Responsible Care Self-Assessment excel and webtool into the *Fecc* European Responsible Care Programme (see also chapter 2.1.).

To explore the link between the Responsible Care Self-Assessment Webtool and SQAS/ESAD a dedicated Working Group with *Brenntag*, established at the Committee Meeting in December

2020, met on 12 January 2021 leading to a presentation "Link between ESAD and the new Responsible Care Self-Assessment Webtool" from *Brenntag* at the ESAD Steering Committee Meeting on 18 March 2021. The most important conclusion was that the *Cefic* SQAS Manager needed to discuss the topic with his colleagues, especially *Cefic* Responsible Care Manager, to explore whether overlaps exist, and a sort of 'merger' would be possible and could bring added value.

ANNEX I

Level of Responsible Care Participation in Europe (Fecc Membership: National Associations) per Country

Tables: Level of Responsible Care Participation in Europe per Country (Data Fecc Surveys 2010- 2020) – Participation in Responsible Care

	# distributors	# committed	%	# distributors	#committed	%
	2009	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010
Belgium	27	16	59	29	29	100
Czech Republic	18	8	44	15	9	60
Germany	108	67	62	109	67	61
Denmark	31	6	19	29	5	17
Spain	58	24	42	59	20	34
France	76	45	59	69	42	61
Finland	17	16	94	16	16	100
Italy	231	43	19	79	44	56
Ireland	12	12	100	12	12	100
The Netherlands	53	53	100	53	53	100
Portugal	33	11	33	31	11	36
Sweden	25	18	72	47	21	45
UK	95	95	100	92	92	100
Average %			62			67

	# distributors	# committed	%	# distributors	# committed	%
	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012
Belgium	29	29	100	30	30	100
Czech Republic	15	9	60	15	9	60
Germany	107	67	63	106	68	65
Denmark	31	5	16	31	5	16
Spain	54	20	37	52	14	27
France	70	42	60	64	42	66
Finland	17	15	88	16	15	94
Italy	79	45	57	74	42	57
Ireland	9	9	100	9	9	100
The Netherlands	38	38	100	31	31	100
Portugal	44	11	25	43	10	23
Sweden	45	18	40	28	18	64
UK	93	93	100	92	92	100
Average %			65			67

	# distributors	# committed	%	# distributors	# committed	%
	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014
Belgium	28	28	100	28	28	100
Czech Republic	14	9	64	13	11	85
Germany	106	65	61	102	65	70
Denmark	38	9	24	38	9	24
Spain	50	22	44	51	20	40
France	63	40	63	66	41	62
Finland	15	15	100	18	18	100
Italy	72	41	57	72	41	57
Ireland	9	9	100	10	8	80
The Netherlands	39	39	100	34	34	100
Portugal	42	11	26	41	12	29
Sweden	40	17	43	40	17	43
UK	89	89	100	93	93	100
Average %			68			68

	# distributors	# committed	%	# distributors	# committed	%
	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016
Belgium	24	24	100	24	24	100
Czech Republic	12	12	100	13	13	100
Germany	101	72	71	101	71	70
Denmark	31	9	29	29	9	31
Spain	52	25	48	58	26	45
France	68	41	60	67	44	66
Finland	16	16	100	20	20	100
Italy	72	42	58	72	42	58
Ireland	10	10	100	10	10	100
The Netherlands	27	27	100	31	31	100
Portugal	41	12	29	38	12	32
Sweden	35	15	43	43	13	30
UK	90	90	100	91	91	100
Average %			72			72

2017 23 13 107 29	2017 23 13 75	100 100	2018 21 13	2018	100
13 107	13				100
13 107	13				100
107		100	12		
	75		13	13	100
29	. •	70	104	74	71
23	9	31	28	9	32
58	26	45	58	26	45
65	43	66	65	43	66
15	15	100	15	15	100
72	40	56	70	40	56
10	10	100	11	11	100
31	31	100	31	31	100
38	12	32	38	12	32
34	14	41	34	14	41
90	90	100	89	89	100
		72			73
	58 65 15 72 10 31 38 34	58 26 65 43 15 15 72 40 10 10 31 31 38 12 34 14	58 26 45 65 43 66 15 15 100 72 40 56 10 10 100 31 31 100 38 12 32 34 14 41	58 26 45 58 65 43 66 65 15 15 100 15 72 40 56 70 10 10 100 11 31 31 100 31 38 12 32 38 34 14 41 34 90 90 100 89	58 26 45 58 26 65 43 66 65 43 15 15 100 15 15 72 40 56 70 40 10 10 100 11 11 31 31 100 31 31 38 12 32 38 12 34 14 41 34 14 90 90 100 89 89

	# distributors	# committed	%	# distributors	# committed	%
	2019	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020
Belgium	22	22	100	21	21	100
Czech Republic	13	13	100	13	13	100
Germany	104	75	72	104	71	68
Denmark	28	9	32	28	9	32
Spain	65	26	40	65	26	40
France	65	43	66	65	43	66
Finland	15	15	100	15	15	100
Italy	70	40	56	70	40	56
Ireland	12	12	100	12	12	100
The Netherlands	31	31	100	29	29	100
Portugal	38	12	32	38	12	32
Sweden	34	19	55	34	19	55
UK	93	93	100	97	97	100
Average %			73			73

ANNEX II

Data Eight Guiding Principles 2013-2020

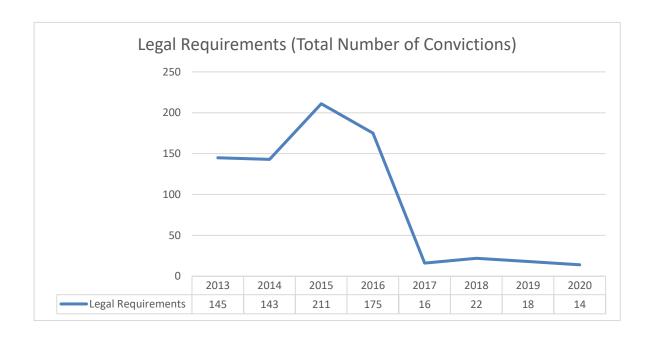
Explanatory note:

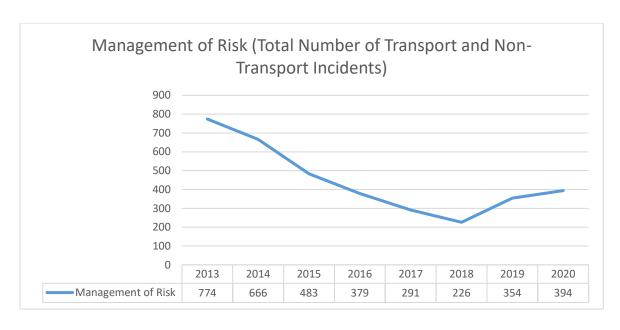
The data below refer to questions in the *Fecc* Annual survey for NAs.

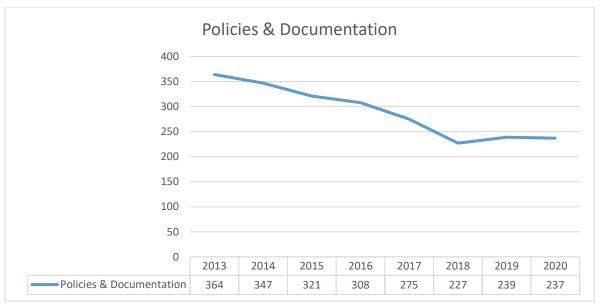
No data are available for Portugal, Italy, Sweden, and France in 2020 (Survey 2021).

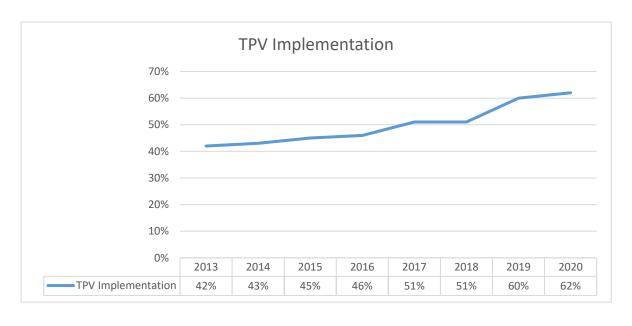
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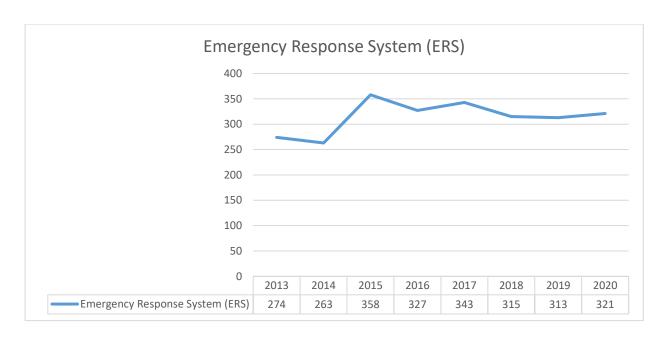
- Policies & Documentation: Number of Distributor Members having at least one ISO certificate.
- ➤ Emergency Response System (ERS): Number of Members having an ERS 24/24 hours and 365 days per year in place.
- ➤ Ongoing Improvements: Number of Members having an Improvement Plan (IP) in place.
- > Training: Number of Members having Responsible Care as part of the Training Programme for new employees.
- ➤ Community Interaction: Number of Members having at least one community interaction last year.

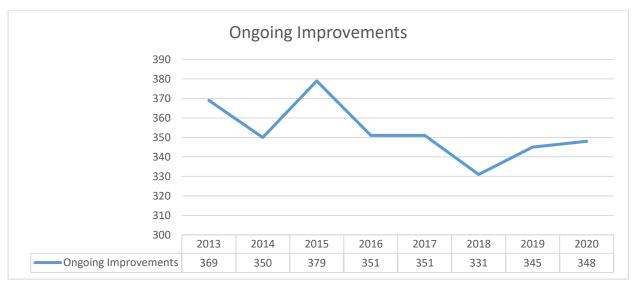


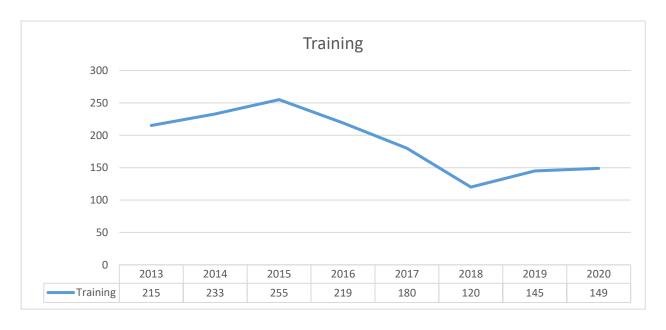


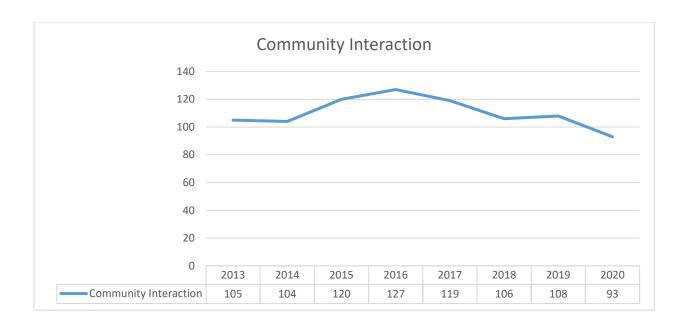












ANNEX III

Data Lost Time Injury Rate (LTIR) by Country 2010-2020

Explanatory note:

Lost Time Injury Rate (LTIR) is defined as the number of accidents leading to a minimum of 3 lost workdays per one million worked hours (Total number for all respective NA member companies).

A blank box for certain years means no data ("not indicated") submitted by the NA in the survey.

