Among more than 500 constantly updated sources of IGS are e.g.

- directives and limit values according to German, EU and international law
- data for first aid
- toxicological data
- identification data for convenient search of substances
- legal sources (national and international) for environmental protection, consumer protection, health and safety
- special rules for vehicles, electrical appliances, biocides, plant protection products, food, drink and tobacco, toys and more.

IGS was originally developed for the various specialized public authorities in Germany.

Data is provided via Internet and is made available to professional users in public administration via North Rhine-Westphalia's administrative network.
IGS public is a version for interested individuals, allowing them to obtain reliable information on properties of substances.

In addition, specialized applications for certain authorities such as the fire brigade are available. A collection of technical provisions for environmental protection (VTU) is also accessible via IGS. This includes EU, federal and regional-state law as well as technical regulations relevant in the environmental sector.

IGS can be found at:
www.lanuv.nrw.de > Infosysteme > IGS – Informationssystem für gefährliche Stoffe

or directly via:
www.stoffliste.de

Explosive	Flammable	Hazardous to the environment
Acute toxicity	Corrosive	Oxidising

Landesamt für Natur,
Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz
Nordrhein-Westfalen

Chemicals, Microorganisms, Hazardous Substances

Web-Based Information System IGS

LANUV Info 5

IGS: Hazardous Substances Information System

What does the hazard symbol on the household cleaner mean? How dangerous is a chemical substance used in a paint, plant protection product or insect repellent? Which food additive is meant by „E200"?

Such questions are answered by the „Hazardous Substances Information System (IGS public)", the free web-based database provided by the State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection of North Rhine-Westphalia (LANUV NRW). Here you will find details on hazards, advice on handling and first aid data on hazardous substances and mixtures. Limit values, e.g. for soil, water or at the workplace, are available. Moreover, physico-chemical data on substances, applicable legal regulations as well as guidance notes can be found. Even details on microorganisms and radioactive substances are accessible.

Today over eight million different artificial and natural substances are known. More than 100,000 substances are handled all over the EU on a larger scale. Constantly, new substances are discovered, developed and utilized. They are ubiquitous in the environment, where they are ingested by humans and animals and taken up by plants.

We encounter substances constantly in daily life, e.g.

- in air, water, soil and plants
- in daily household use, e.g. in food, cosmetics or plant protection products and during home improvement activities
- in leisure time
- at work and
- at school.

Not only companies or their employees need to know the chemical properties of substances. The public too wants to get information on the properties of substances they are exposed to, to be able to choose those products that are least harmful to health and environment. This is why LANUV operates the „Hazardous Substances Information System - public" (IGS public). IGS public is a database that comprises information on 130,000 different substances and all associated data as to hazards, prohibitions, application restrictions as well as instructions for use, e.g. in chemistry classes.

Further relevant information on transport, storage, fire protection or disposal of the various substances is also available in IGS public. Altogether, information drawn from more than 500 legal sources and data sheets has been included.

Via a search mask in IGS public all information available on a specific substance can be obtained through various steps by entering a substance name or registry number.

Fig. 1 shows a search example for "Quecksilber" (mercury) which can still be found in many old thermometers. In a separate mask all details for identification of the substance as well as hazard notes are shown. The "waste/disposal" section describes what needs to be done if the thermometer is broken and mercury leaks out.
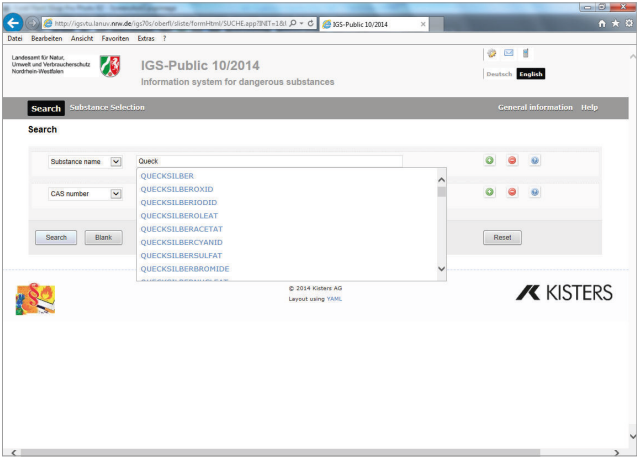

Fig. 1: Start mask of IGS public, with special search function for the entry of problematic names: here the example of mercury

Fig. 2: Example of query output on waste/disposal

All relevant legal sources and their contents are displayed, see Fig. 2 left navigation bar.

IGS comprises information concerning environmental protection, consumer protection, health and safety at work and in private, fire protection as well as information on disposal, storage, transport, import and export regulations.
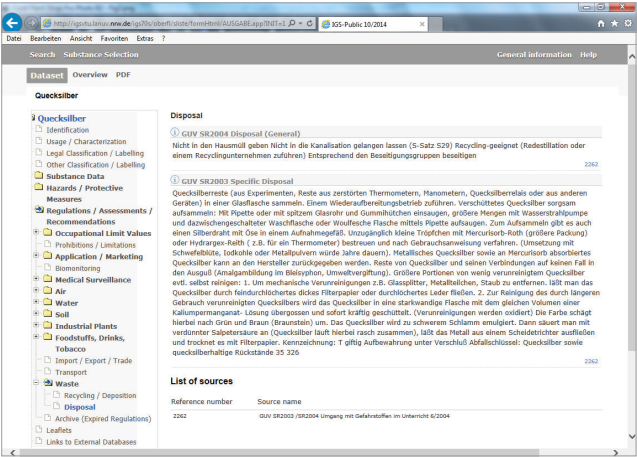
Examples of the diversity of IGS

- Bacillus anthracis
- Carbendazim
- Coffee
- Escherichia coli
- Folic acid
- Glyphosate
- Lavender
- Measles virus
- Salmonella
- Simazine
- Sugar
- Testosterone
- Uranium 235