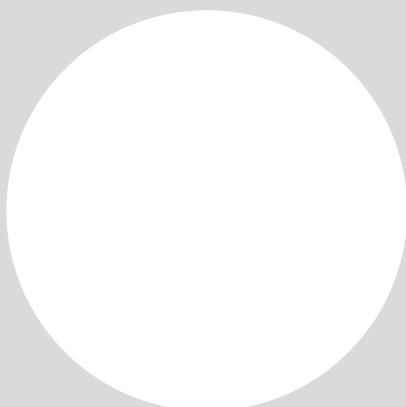
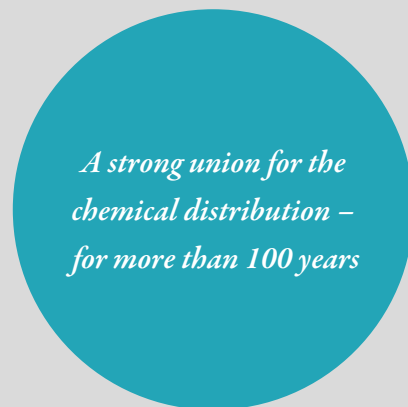


Linked for benefits

The German Chemical Distribution Association



Services for the chemical distribution.

An association for the distribution sector network

The roots of the German Chemical Distribution Association (Verband Chemiehandel or VCH) reach back more than 100 years. In Berlin in 1903, the "Verein der Drogen- und Chemikaliengroßhändler" (Society for Wholesalers of Drugs and Chemicals) was founded as the first chemical distribution association with the aim of strengthening the position of both the individual members – and also the whole sector – by a cooperation between similar firms.

Today, domiciled in Cologne, the VCH is the organisation of the production-connecting chemical distributors in Germany with a special emphasis on the stockholding distribution trade, the export/importers and the chemical speciality distributors. The association has more than 100 member companies who together generate a turnover of about twelve billion Euros per annum.

The VCH stands up for the rights and commercial interests of the chemical wholesalers and foreign distribution companies in Germany. It represents the interests of its members and their sector of industry towards all responsible bodies of the authorities and the economy. Furthermore, it promotes the exchange of economic and technical information within the chemicals distribution as well as beyond the borders of the association.

Informs

As well as the lobbying work for the complete chemical distribution sector, the association understands its work mainly as being a central point of contact for services and information for its members. Classical topics within the chemical distribution are the storage of chemicals with the associated laws and regulations, the laws concerning protection from chemicals and occupational safety, the placing

on the market of substances and preparations, the transport of hazardous goods as well as environmental protection and closed loop recycling management. Members receive regular circulars from the association on these subjects. In addition, circulars are sent out concerning specific questions of the foreign distribution of chemicals and annual statistics about the sector of industry showing the developments which the chemical distribution is undergoing. Seminars and training courses round off the information provided for members and, if necessary, discussion groups on current interest issues are convened.

With the publications series "customer information", the association informs the users of chemicals about technical and legal matters and thus supports its members with their public relations work.

Networking

As well as the annual members meeting, the VCH offers three specialist departments as well as regional and technical working groups for exchanging information about chemical distribution. Meetings, workshops and discussion groups continually provide the chance to look beyond one's own company and explore the technical and expert questions affecting the whole sector and to develop relations with other companies in this respect.

The economic and specialist cooperation with the important suppliers of the chemical distribution is promoted by the VCH through a close cooperation with the German Chemical Industry Association. Here, numerous technical problems are discussed together, joint positions prepared or solutions to problems developed within joint working groups.



Experts in dialogue

The VCH offers its members three specialist departments as well as regional and technical working groups as dialogue platforms.

Specialist departments

- :: Domestic distribution
- :: Foreign distribution
- :: Chemical distribution and recycling

Technical working groups

- :: Transport of hazardous goods
- :: Hazardous substances
- :: Technology and the environment
- :: Waste management and recycling law
- :: Life Sciences

Regional working groups

- :: North Germany
- :: North-Rhine Westphalia
- :: East Germany
- :: South Germany





An international network.

National and international connections for the German chemical distribution

The state, its legislative institutions and executive bodies are reliant on extensive factual information from the economic community. Therefore, the VCH supports advisory boards, and committees in their work and thus makes their voice heard in the interest of chemical distributors.

The basis for these activities is the work of the association's four own technical working groups. These concern themselves with proposed legislation and technical problems ranging from the transport of hazardous goods and the hazardous substance, pollution, plant operation and waste management laws, through to exchanging information on special subjects such as medications, foodstuffs and cosmetics. The working groups prepare the regular participation of the VCH, among others, in the Committee for the Transport of Hazardous Substances at the Federal Ministry of Transport, as well as in the Committees for Hazardous Substances and for Occupational Safety at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Furthermore, the VCH also works together with all other relevant ministries in matters concerning chemical distribution.

The VCH is a member of the BGA, the Federation of German Wholesale, Foreign distribution and Services and, on the national level, it works together closely with the German Chemical Industry Association (VCI).

Successful lobby work requires cooperation in a spirit of partnership at the international level. Here, the VCH is regularly and intensively involved in all committees of the European umbrella organisation the European Association of Chemical Distributors (FECC) which provides the European chemical distributors with a voice in the bodies and committees of the European Union, in particular with the EU Commission. In topics which concern several business segments, the VCH is represented by EuroCommerce in Brussels, the European distribution organisation.

With regard to the Responsible Care activities, the networking of the VCH even goes beyond Europe's borders. A programme for responsible action in chemical distribution (Responsible Care/Distribution) was developed in the International Council of Chemical Distribution Associations (ICCTA). Under the umbrella of the ICCTA, the VCH also cooperates in international conventions of, for example, the WHO, the UNEP or the OECD.



World

ICCTA

International
Council of Chemical
Trade Associations

WHO

World Health Organization

UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

OECD

Organization for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Europe

Fecc

European Association
of Chemical
Distributors

EuroCommerce

- European Commission
- European Parliament
- Council of the European Union
- Committee on Commerce and Distribution
- Economic and Social Committee

Germany

vch

Verband
Chemiehandel

BGA

Federation of German
Wholesale, Foreign
Trade and
Services

German Federal Ministries

- Federal Ministry for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
- Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology
- Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and
Urban Development
- Federal Ministry of the Interior

Committee work

For example: Committee on Hazardous
Substances, Occupational Safety Committee