

45 years of successful preventive work by the BfR Committee for the Assessment of Poisonings

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The national Committee for the Assessment of Poisonings located at the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) marked its 45th anniversary with a celebration. It was established in 1964 within the former German health authority (*Bundesgesundheitsamt*), modelled on the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) committee “National Clearing House for Poison Control Centers”, together with a centre for documentation on the identification and treatment of poisonings. Likewise, poison information centres were established in the *Länder* (German federal states) according to the American model. Renowned experts were appointed to the Committee who supported the German poison information centres’ consultation and treatment of accidents. The tailor-made and individual treatment of such accidents in collaboration with poison information centres as well as improved prevention and consumer protection – especially through new product compositions, warning labels and prohibitions of sale – drastically reduced fatal cases of poisoning accidents in children.

The full version of the BfR Information in German is available on http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/252/45_jahre_erfolgreiche_praeventionsarbeit_der_bfr_kommission_zur_bewertung_von_vergiftungen.pdf