Portugal

International Pharmaceutical EPR Program Fact Sheet

Organizing Body: Integrated Packaging Collection and Medicines (SIGREM) is managed by Valormed (http://www.valormed.pt), a non-profit organization created by the pharmaceutical industry.

- SIGREM: Implemented by the Portuguese Government
- Valormed: Created by the Association of Portuguese Pharmaceutical Industries (APIFARMA), pharmaceutical distributors (Groquifar), and the National Pharmacies Association (ANF)

Program Description: Organized by the pharmaceutical industry, Valormed was established in 1999. Funded by three industry sources, wholesale distributors ensure the operational logistics of collection from pharmacies. Despite retailer participation being voluntary, 99% of Portugal’s pharmacies participated in collection in 2011.

Funding: Three organizations hold equal capital in Valormed:

1. 33% APIFARMA: Pharmaceutical packagers pay Responsibility Compensation Value (VCR) for the transfer of their responsibility in the management of packaging waste drugs
2. 33% Wholesale Distribution sector, represented by Groquifar-Wholesalers Association of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Products
3. 33% subsector of retail distribution represented by ANF

The main source of funding to operate SIGREM comes from financial contributions to Valormed through a fee called (VCR). Pharmaceutical packagers are responsible to make VCR payments to Valormed. Payments are collected through a fee placed on packaging. In 2011, the fee was USD $.006 (EUR €0.005). [1]

Program Costs: No cost data was found

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Program Chronology:

- 1999: Valormed established
- 2001: SIGREM program implemented
- 2007: Extended to veterinary pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical packaging, and packaging from hospital pharmacies and other health providers

Collection Locations: Pharmacies participate voluntarily and in 2011 there was 99% participation rate amongst pharmacies.

Results: Collection totals of pharmaceutical waste from 2010-2013:

- 2010: 825 tons (838 metric tons) collected
- 2011: 841 tons (854 metric tons) collected
- 2013: 996 tons (904 metric tons) collected

Awareness: 85% of respondents in Lisbon were aware of the collection system’s existence

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4 “Quem Somos.”
5 “Unused Pharmaceuticals Where Do They End Up?”, 20.

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Mission: To shift California’s product waste management system from one focused on government funded and ratepayer financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.