

European Union Detergent Regulation Services

Intertek has extensive knowledge and experience to help you ensure the quality, safety, efficiency and regulatory compliance of your products.



Background

Detergents provide a variety of benefits for society and cleaning products play an important role in our daily lives. As a consumer, you expect that the product you use is safe and that its use does not adversely affect human health or the environment.

According to the definition, "detergent" means any substance or mixture containing surfactants (soaps and/or other surfactants) and intended for washing and cleaning processes. Detergents may be in any form and shape and can be used both in household, institutional and industrial purposes. Other products that are considered as detergents are the laundry process tools, for example, for soaking (prewashing), rinsing and bleaching, and fabric softeners.

Detergent regulation

There are many international and national laws regulating the manufacture, packaging, labelling and use of detergents. The regulation (EC) No 648/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on detergents, also known as the Detergent Regulation, entered into force in 2005 and harmonized the various existing directives in the EU Member States. The purpose of the regulation is to reduce environmental risks and improve information to consumers.

When placing a detergent on the market in the EU, you must comply with current regulations. There are requirements for all actors in the supply chain, for you who manufacture or import from outside the EU, but also on your distributor or reseller. The regulation requires that surfactants used must be completely

biodegradable, in addition, it regulates how products should be labelled with ingredient and dosage information. If a product is claimed "to clean surfaces", it is covered by the Detergent Regulation, even if it does not contain surfactants, such as solvent-based cleaners.

The Detergent Regulation was updated by Regulation (EU) No 259/2012 with limiting the use of phosphates and other phosphorus compounds in detergents. Regulation (EU) 1272/2008 on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures was yet another update. If a detergent is also claimed to be a disinfectant, you must comply with the Detergent Regulation and the Biocidal Product Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 on the supply and use of biocidal products.

The Intertek advantage

Intertek can help you to interpret and to implement current regulatory requirements. Our experts have extensive experience in current regulations, but also in toxicological and technical issues. Intertek has a wide global network of laboratories carrying out various types of chemical analyses. We provide technical and regulatory support including:

- Regulatory compliance of products and processes in relation to the requirements of
 - Detergent Regulation (EC) No 648/2004
 - Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 REACH
 - Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 on biocidal products
 - Regulation (EU) No 259/2012 on phosphates and phosphorus compounds
 - Product Safety Guideline GPSD 2001/95/ EC

- Classification and labelling according to CLP Regulation (EC) 1272/2008
- Creation / Update / Translation/ Validation of Safety Data Sheets
- Consultancy services and regulatory assistance around
 - biocides and biocidal products
 - raw material studies/ documentation review
 - replacement of "substances of very high concern"
 - product development
 - ecolabelling of products
 - validation of product claims
- Chemical analysis of "substances of very high concern"
- Biodegradability studies and product testing
- Collection of data and documentation, documentation review
- Toxicological risk assessment
- Testing and analysis of packaging
- Audits and inspections

For more information



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