



Labelling and Packaging requirements for Detergents & Biocidal Detergent Products Information Sheet

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The Detergent Regulations cover the manufacture, placing, making available on the market and use of detergent products. In addition, detergents with a biocidal action are also regulated by the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) which includes disinfectants, sanitisers, antimicrobials, antibacterials and any detergents with biocidal activity. This information sheet covers the packaging and labelling requirements of detergents and biocidal detergents.

All detergents on the EU market must be **labelled** and packaged according to the Detergent Regulations. Detergents that **contain biocidal active substances** must also comply with the Biocidal Products Regulation.

The responsibility for labelling and packaging of detergents and biocidal detergents lies with;

- all **manufacturers/producers** and **importers** of detergent / biocidal detergent products,
- **any person changing the formulation** (composition) of a detergent/biocidal detergent, and
- any **person who changes the labelling or packaging** of a detergent product **including retailers and distributors** who sell “**own label**” detergents.

Distributors, including retailers, who only supply the market have a responsibility to ensure the detergents they “make available” to the market are compliant.

For detergents containing biocides it is the responsibility of the **Notification holder** or **Authorisation holder** to ensure that their biocidal detergent product(s) is also labelled in accordance with Article 69 of the [Biocidal Products Regulation](#).

Detergent Products and Biocidal Detergent Products

A detergent is any product intended for washing and cleaning. It may be sold for household or for institutional or industrial purposes in many forms such as;

- liquid,
- powder,
- paste,
- bar, and
- cake etc.

Examples of detergent products are;

- laundry washing powders,
- dishwasher products,
- kitchen sprays and
- oven cleaners.



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



Some detergent products may contain **biocides**.

Biocidal substances are incorporated into detergent products to give them antibacterial, antimicrobial, disinfecting or sanitising properties with the intention to destroy, make harmless or control harmful organisms such as bacteria or viruses by means other than mere physical or mechanical action (see Article 3(1) of the BPR).

How to know if a Detergent Product contains a Biocide?

The label of a biocidal detergent product will claim a biocidal effect such as;

- antibacterial,
- antimicrobial,
- antifungal,
- sanitising, and
- disinfectant etc.

All biocides on the market in Ireland **must be either notified to or authorised with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)**. Biocidal detergents will therefore also have either a notification number (a PCS number) or an authorisation number (an IE/BPA number) on the label issued by the DAFM.

A list of notified and authorised biocidal products on the Irish market is available on the DAFM's website (see **Further Information**).

Labelling and Packaging of Detergents and Biocidal Detergent Products

The labelling and packaging of all detergent products must comply with the requirements of the Detergent Regulations. Where the detergent has a biocidal function, the packaging must also contain labelling information as required by the Biocidal Products Regulation.

In addition, where the detergent or biocidal detergent product is classified as hazardous, it must be **hazard labelled** in accordance with the

rules set out in the classification and labelling legislation (see **Further Information**).

Specific packaging and labelling requirements for Detergent Products sold to the general public

The following information must appear on the packaging of all detergent products which are sold to the general public:

- **Name** and **trade name** of the product.
- **Name, full address** and **telephone number** of the party responsible for placing the product on the market.
- The **address, e-mail** address (where available) and **telephone number** from here an **Ingredient Datasheet** may be obtained.
- A **list of specific constituents** (listed in Annex VII of the Detergent Regulation) if present in concentrations >0.2% in the product e.g. phosphates, aliphatic hydrocarbons. A weight percentage range must be provided.
- **Names** of any **enzymes, disinfectants, perfumes, preservatives, optical brighteners** if present in the product.
- **Names** of any **allergenic fragrances** (as listed in Annex III of the Cosmetics Directive).
- **Website address** where the **list of ingredients** of the detergent product **is provided**.

Note: *For detergents intended solely for professional use i.e. industrial and institutional uses, the above mentioned labelling and packaging requirements regarding listing ingredients and website address do not have to be fulfilled provided the equivalent information is provided by means of a technical data sheet/ safety data sheet or in a similar manner.*

Specific information requirements on the label of a Biocidal Detergent Product

The **label of a biocidal detergent** (e.g. disinfectant, antimicrobial or sanitising product) should contain all the relevant elements specified in Article 69 of the BPR in addition to the requirements specified in the Detergent Regulations. They include;

- **notification or approval number** (e.g. PCS 9xxxx or IE/BPA 7xxxx). Only notified or approved biocides have such a number,
- the **name(s) of the biocidal active ingredient(s)** and its **concentration** in the product,
- the **type of product** formulation,
- what the product is **approved** for,
- details of any **restricted** users i.e. for general public or professional/industrial use only,
- **instructions** on handling, storage, application, use and disposal of the biocide,
- details of any **protective clothing or equipment** which must be worn when using the biocide, and
- whether **access to treated areas** need to be **restricted**.

Any change made to a label of a notified or authorised biocidal product must be communicated to the DAFM for approval prior to those changes being made to the product label.



Specific requirements for the Labelling of Laundry Detergent Products sold to the general public

The following information **must** appear on the packaging of **laundry detergent** products **sold to the general public**;

- **recommended quantities and/or dosage instructions** for a standard machine load for soft, medium and hard water classes for one or two cycle washing processes,
- **capacity of any measuring cup** indicating doses to be used, and
- **number of standard washing machine loads** of normally and lightly soiled **fabrics that can be washed using medium water hardness**.

Example of Instructions for Use:

Load:	Light	Normal	Heavy
Water:			
Soft	50ml	75ml	125ml
Medium	50ml	75ml	125ml
Hard	75ml	100ml	150ml

1 Cup = 1 Full Load
 Fill cup and dose straight into your washing machine drawer.
 Wash hands after use.
 Do not pour directly onto fabrics.
 Rinse and dry hands after use.



Specific labelling requirements for Detergent Products classified as hazardous

All detergent products which are **classified as hazardous** must be **hazard labelled** in accordance with [Regulation \(EC\) No. 1272/2008 on the Classification, Labelling and Packaging](#) of substances and mixtures (CLP).

The hazard label on the package must display the following information;

- the **trade name** of the mixture,
- content (**weight or volume**) – for products sold to the general public (unless specified elsewhere on the package),
- the **name, address** and **telephone number** of the EU supplier,
- **hazard pictogram** indicating the hazard concerned,
- **signal word**,
- **hazard statements** describing the hazardous effect e.g. *Harmful if inhaled*, and
- **precautionary statements** to allow the user of the chemical to take measures to protect health/environment e.g. *Keep out of reach of children*.

Ingredient Data Sheets and Safety Data Sheets

In addition to ensuring that the labelling and packaging are in compliance, those responsible

for the labelling and packaging must also ensure that an **Ingredient Data Sheet** containing the name of the detergent, the name of the manufacturer and a list of all of the ingredients in the detergent **is made available for medical personnel** (as per Art. 9 of the Detergent Regulation (EC) No 648 of 2004).

All detergent and biocidal detergent products which are classified as hazardous and which are sold to professional users must have a **Safety Data Sheet** (SDS) that outlines the hazard and safety information for the product.

For any detergent classified as hazardous for health and/or for physical effects which is placed on the Irish market, it is obligatory for importers and formulators to include the National Poisons Information Centre (NPIC) emergency number in section 1.4. The NPIC emergency number cannot be used in Section 1.4 of an SDS until the notification process is complete. The notification process is explained on the NPIC website <http://www.poisons.ie/Manufacturers/Product-Registration>.

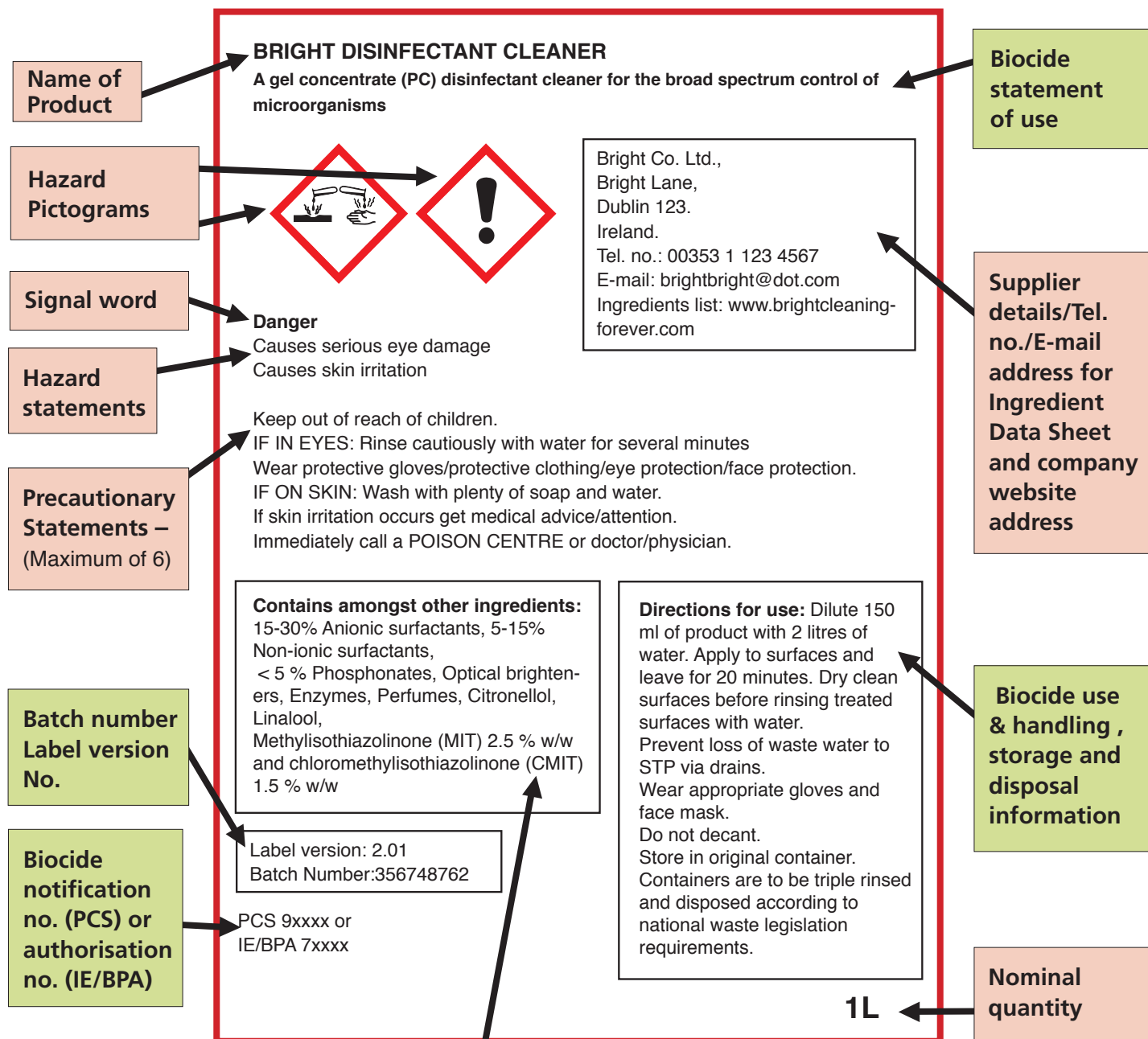
For institutional or industrial detergents where a Safety Data Sheet is available, and provides the exact information as is required by the Ingredient Data Sheet, this will suffice in place of the Ingredient Data Sheet.

Important: Where a detergent is sold to the general public only or where a SDS is not required because the detergent is not classified as hazardous, an **Ingredient Data Sheet must be available**.



Example of the information that must be contained on a Detergent package containing a Biocide

* the text in the **green boxes** relates to the information requirements for biocidal detergent products while the text in the **pink boxes** is the information required for all detergents



Specific labelling requirements for detergents including listing of enzymes, optical brighteners, perfumes, allergenic fragrances and preservative agents.

Biocidal active substance must be identified separately with the % weight/weight content.



Contacts

- The **Health and Safety Authority** Chemicals HelpDesk at chemicals@hsa.ie.
- The **Pesticide Control Division** at the **Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine** at biocides@agriculture.gov.ie.

Legislation

- [Biocidal Products Regulation](#) (EU) No. 528/2002.
- [Detergent Regulations](#) (EC) No. 648 of 2004, (EC) No.259 of 2012, (EC) No. 551 of 2009 and (EC) No. 907 of 2006.
- [CLP Regulation](#) (EC) No. 1272/2008.
- [Cosmetics Regulation](#) (EC) N° 1223/2009.

Useful Information

Health and Safety Authority's website:

- Detergents webpages: <https://www.hsa.ie/eng/Chemicals/Detergents/>
- Labelling information: https://www.hsa.ie/eng/Your_Industry/Chemicals/Legislation_Enforcement/Classification_and_Labelling/Labelling/
- Publications: http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications_and_Forms/Publications/Chemical_and_Hazardous_Substances/

Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's website:

- Biocide webpages: <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/biocides/>
- Pesticide Registration and Control Division's "Biocides Network" on [LinkedIn members-only group](#). Search groups with the tag "Biocides Network".

National Poisons Information Centre of Ireland webpages:

<https://www.poisons.ie/Manufacturers>.



Further Information and Guidance:

Visit our website at www.hsa.ie, telephone our contact centre on **1890 289 389** or email wcu@hsa.ie

Use BeSMART, our free online risk assessment tool at www.besmart.ie

Check out our range of free online courses at www.hslearning.ie