

Chemical products

2024-03-19



	Scope of the criteria
<p>The Good Environmental Choice criteria apply from 2018-03-01 until the next version is introduced. On 2024-01-15, the criteria were evaluated and considered still relevant. The next version will be introduced no earlier than 2025-03-01.</p> <p>Regarding "Material in wet wipes", see below under "18".</p>	

1.15	Corrosive products
<p>A product with classification H314 1A is exempted from criterium 1.15 under the following conditions: the product is dosed, e.g. using foam gun, in such a way that the user is not in contact with concentrated product, and the ready-to-use preparation is not H314 1A.</p>	

1.16	Carcinogenic substances
<p>Since 2013, the WHO's expert body for carcinogens, IARC, classifies benzophenone (CAS No 119-61-9) in group 2B, i.e. "possibly carcinogenic to humans". This has been equated with H351 and benzophenone is therefore not approved for use in Good Environmental Choice.</p>	

1.22	Policy, renewable raw materials
<p>Clarification: The requirement on a policy to increase the proportion of renewable raw materials over time concerns the product for which the company is applying.</p>	

1.23	Renewable raw materials
<p>Perfumes are exempt from this requirement</p>	

1.23	Renewable raw materials
<p>If there is a secrecy agreement between the Licence holder and the producing company, we accept that it is the producing company that has the required knowledge of renewable raw materials.</p>	

1.28	Testing of chemicals
<p>Clarification: The requirement applies to testing of chemicals included in the product for which the company is applying.</p>	

1.29	The precautionary principle
<p>Clarification: "...the higher toxicity value..." refers to the value indicating the highest degree of toxicity</p>	

1.30	Languages
<p>In the countries listed below the following languages must be used (alone or together with other languages).</p> <p>Sweden: Swedish</p> <p>Norway*: Norwegian</p> <p>Finland: Finnish</p> <p>Iceland: Icelandic</p> <p>Denmark*: Danish</p> <p>Faroe Islands: Faroese and Danish</p> <p>Greenland: Greenlandic and Danish</p> <p>Estonia: Estonian</p> <p>Latvia: Latvian</p> <p>Lithuania: Lithuanian</p> <p>Germany: German</p> <p>Italy: Italian</p> <p>Singapore: English</p> <p>Great Britain: English</p> <p>* In Norway and Denmark it is accepted to use a common text, where only the words that differ, or can not be understood between the countries, have been translated.</p>	

9	Colouring agents
<p>Since tartrazine (CAS number 1934-21-0), according to many registrations in ECHA's C&L inventory, is classified with H317 (May cause an allergic skin reaction) it is not approved for use in Bra Miljöval labelled products.</p>	

9.4	Colouring agents, product-specific requirements
<p>Colouring agents are permitted also in stain removers</p>	

12.1	Enzymes
<p>Enzyme stabilizers classified with H317 (May cause an allergic skin reaction) must not exceed 0.01% by weight in the final product (e.g. a laundry detergent). Please note that the exception for enzymes in requirement 1.12 does not apply to stabilizers.</p>	

14	Other additives
<p>Denatonium benzoate (CAS number 3734-33-6) is approved, despite low biodegradability, when used for denaturing in accordance with the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1112, Annex, clause II, i.e. 1.0 gram denatonium benzoate/hectoliter of absolute ethanol.</p>	

14	Other additives
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Note: This text is a translation. The original Swedish text always prevails.

Tetrasodium etidronate (CAS number 3794-83-0) may be used as a processing aid in the synthesis of ingredients, at a maximum concentration of 0.2 % by weight, provided that the concentration in the final product, e.g. a laundry detergent, does not exceed 0.02% by weight. However, tetrasodium etidronate may not be used as an ingredient in the recipe of the final product.

16.9	Water content in fabric softeners
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The criterium is revised: The water content must not exceed 86 % by weight.

Fabric softeners for consumer use may be approved to contain a maximum of 89 % water if the dosage (regardless of water hardness) does not exceed 17 ml and provided that the license holder submits documentation showing that there are environmental reasons to allow a higher water content.

17	Dosage and user information for automatically dispensed products where the dosage is set by the licence holder's representative
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Automatically dispensed products where the dosage is set by the licence holder's representative are, as mentioned in requirement 17.1, exempt from the requirement that information about the recommended dosage must be present on the label and the product information sheet. Consequently, such products are also exempt from the product-specific requirements relating to the dosage.

However, the following phrases are mandatory:

Powder laundry detergents for consumer use:

"Consider the environment: Always wash a full load" or similar text

Powder laundry detergents for professional users:

"Consider the environment: Always wash a full load" or similar text

Liquid laundry detergents for consumer use:

"Consider the environment: Always wash a full load" or similar text

Liquid laundry detergents for professional users:

"Consider the environment: Always wash a full load" or similar text

Dishwasher detergents for manual dosing:

"Consider the environment: Always wash a full load" or similar text

Dishwasher detergents form automatic dosing:

"Consider the environment: Always wash a full load" or similar text

17.2, 17.30, 17.35	Dosage for different water hardness levels
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For fabric softeners where the dosage is the same for different water hardness levels and this is clearly indicated on the packaging, requirements 17.2, 17.30 and 17.35 have been cancelled.

17.4	Dosage and user information
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Ready-to-use windscreen washer fluids are exempt from requirement 17.4.

Rinse aids are exempt from the requirement that the dosage must be stated in ml, dl or other commonly accepted units of measurement. Instead, it is accepted to refer to the dishwasher user manual, the manufacturers' programming instructions, or similar. The phrase "Consider the environment: Do not use more than necessary" or similar text must be stated on the packaging.

17.6	Dosage ranges
To calculate the allowed dosage for another range than the one mentioned in the criteria document, one should use an average value. If, for example, the maximum dosage (according to the criteria) is 35 g for 4-5 kg laundry, the dosage must not exceed 35 g /4.5 kg, i.e. 7.78 g per kg of laundry. Hence, if the range on the label says 7-9 kg, the dosage must not exceed 8 x 7.78 g, i.e. 62.2 g.	

17.10, 17.16, 17.20, 17.25	User information, detergents for delicate fibers
For detergents for delicate fibers it is accepted to use the phrase "Consider the environment: Do not wash more often than necessary and follow the dosage instructions" instead of "Consider the environment: Always wash a full load and follow the dosage instructions".	

17.46-17.48	Dosage, washing-up liquids
For products sold in spray packages, requirements 17.46-17.48 have been cancelled.	

18	Material in wet wipes
New criteria för materials in wet wipes enter into force on 2024-01-01. Products having a valid license prior to 2024-01-01 will be given a transition period until 2024-12-31. After this date these products should also fulfill the new criteria.	

19.1	Packaging must consist of parts that are easy to take apart
Cardboard packaging intended for liquid chemical products is permitted to have a frame / thread for screw cap, which is not easy to disassemble from the cardboard, provided that this does not complicate the recycling of the paper fibers.	

19.3	Material in spray nozzels and pump nozzels
<p>Spray nozzels and pump nozzels have an exemption from being made only from polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) or polyethylene terephthalate (PET). The alternative plastics must not contain PVC or other halogenated plastics. The exemption is valid until 2024-05-31 for newly manufactured products. Stock sales of products covered by the exemption are allowed until 2024-12-31.</p> <p>From 2024-06-01 the following clarification of 19.3 applies to newly manufactured products:</p> <p>For plastic packaging for which the main packaging is made of PE or PP, components (such as spray nozzles and pump nozzles) should be made primarily from PE, PP, TPO and/or TPS. Other plastics may be accepted provided that the density of the plastic is above 1 g/cm³. PVC or other halogenated plastics are not allowed regardless of their density.</p>	

19.4	Barrier coating in cardboard packaging
EVOH (ethylene vinyl alcohol) may be used as a barrier coating on cardboard packaging intended for liquid chemical products, provided that this does not complicate recycling. EVOH may not exceed 2 % by weight in the packaging.	

19.6	Labelling of plastic packaging
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Note: This text is a translation. The original Swedish text always prevails.

For soft plastic packaging sold in the Nordic countries you can write information about the plastic in a text on the label, instead of using DIN 6120 or American SPI.

19.7

Paper labels

Paper labels consisting of only new raw material is accepted, provided that 100% of the raw material is FSC certified.

19.7

Cardboard packaging intended for liquid chemical products

Cardboard packaging intended for liquid chemical products is exempted from the requirement to contain at least 80% recycled raw material, provided that 100% of the raw material in the cardboard is FSC-certified.

The exemption is valid until 2025-01-01.

19.7

Large packaging for laundry detergents

Paper and cardboard packaging intended for laundry detergents with a package size of 10 kg and above may contain down to 50 % wood fibers from recycled raw materials, provided that both the new and the recycled raw materials are FSC certified.

Application, approved ingredients and chemical substances

In several sections of the application form, the applicant should answer whether or not an ingredient or a chemical substance has previously been approved by Good Environmental Choice. We would like to clarify that this refers to ingredients/substances that have been assessed and approved according to the current criteria (from 2018), not the previous ones.

Application, origin of raw materials

Please notice that the origin of raw materials (fossil/renewable) may differ even though the trade name and chemical substances are identical. The same applies for the certification level of oil palm-based ingredients. Hence, Appendix F (Origin of raw materials) and Appendix H (Raw material from the oil palm) should be filled out for each application.

Test guidelines

EU Method C.1. can be used when no data according to OECD 203 is available.

EU Method C.2. can be used when no data according to OECD 202 is available.

EU Method C.3. can be used when no data according to OECD 201 is available.

Licence Terms and Conditions, Special Terms and Conditions 01.03.2018, paragraph 5.1.2

Where a Licence Holder submits Applications for several Licences at the same time for Products included in the same Product Line, a volume discount on the Application Fee is possible also if some products belong to the criteria for Bra Miljöval Cosmetics.

