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Version 1.0

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Standard: EC-58-19 Detergents and Cleaning Products

Update Type: Standard Interpretation

Review of Spray Applicator Restriction on Micro-organism Cleaning Products

Under the current EC-58-19 Detergents and Cleaning Products standard, cleaning products containing micro-organisms must include a label prohibiting spray application. This applies to both ready-to-use products and concentrates intended for transfer to spray bottles. The restriction was based on microorganisms being classified as respiratory sensitisers, posing inhalation risks to vulnerable individuals. However, recent inquiries have questioned the necessity of this restriction given current industry practices.

After re-evaluating the health and environmental concerns, reviewing current industry practices and the recent update to the EU's detergent regulations regarding products with micro-organisms, we have determined that these risks can be effectively mitigated through appropriate product design and compliance with relevant hygiene standards. Accordingly, the restriction on certifying cleaning products with micro-organisms using spray applicators is hereby lifted. EC-58 is currently scheduled for an update and the new version will reflect the change.

In the meantime, license holders / applicants will be required to demonstrate the following:

- 1) Provide information which explains the risk of human exposure and the potential health effects from the product application. And if possible, documentation of risks when spray application is used.
- 2) Provide information on the recommended form of spray application you provide, and the related usage instructions, PPE requirements, training, warnings or other supporting information reducing human exposure.
- 3) Information on the application bottle you provide with your product and how when used as instructed, it helps reduce the risk of exposure.

This adjustment aligns with our commitment to maintaining robust health and safety standards while supporting innovation and sustainability within the market. All certified products must continue to meet the applicable requirements of EC-58.

Please contact Eco Choice Aotearoa at info@ecochoice.org.nz if you have any questions regarding this Technical Update. Include the technical update number in the subject line.

Version History

Version:	Updated:	Updated By:	Description:
1.0	16/01/2026	Andrea Edwards	Initial release.