ECOCERT standard

Ecodetergents and Ecodetergents made with organic

Version 6.3 – December 2024

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Changes to this document are identified by a vertical line in the margin.

Contents

Foreword

I. Preamble

This standard is the result of a partnership between ECOCERT Greenlife, a certification body in the environmental field, and detergent professionals who have long expressed the need to find an answer to the following problems:

- The absence of an official standard for detergents based on substances of natural origin and free of petrochemical surfactants.
- The difficulty, even impossibility, for the consumer to recognise products made only with substances of natural origin and in an environmentally friendly manner.
- The need to support detergent manufacturers who focus on respecting the qualities of naturally occurring substances and the environment.

In other words, it is a question of recognising the know-how of certain manufacturers of nature-friendly detergents throughout the production process and, on the other hand, of ensuring greater transparency on products composition for the consumer. The desire to articulate this standard according to the product's life cycle is in line with the ECOCERT Group's approach to promoting the *United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals*.

II. Objectives

With this standard, ECOCERT Greenlife intends to meet the following objectives:

- Define a quality level higher than that defined by the European regulation for detergent products, which guarantees a real valorisation of agro-resources, a real practice of respect for the environment throughout the production chain and a real respect for the consumer.
- Establish a link between certain detergent products and Organic Farming by promoting the use of plant ingredients from Organic Farming.
- Make a link between detergent products and respect of the environment.

III. The principles of the standard

A. The objectives of the standard

The objectives of the standard are reflected in the application of the following principles:

- Give preference to renewable resources over all other sources, especially petrochemical resources.
- Favour the use of ingredients from Organic Farming, the best guarantee of respect for environmental values.
- Favour processing methods that are the least harmful to the environment.
- Be transparent to the consumer by using communication and phraseology that does not mislead them.
- Value the willingness of manufacturers to improve the quality of their supplies and products by including their research in a dynamic and evolving certification process.
- Leave sufficient scope for continuous adaptation of the requirements to technical and technological progress, to changes in legislation and to consumer demands.

B. Working method principles

To develop this standard, ECOCERT Greenlife has drawn on its expertise in organic and natural labelling over the last 30 years, in particular:

- On its proven areas of competence in Organic Farming: respect for the environment, respect for the consumer and experience of the controllability of a standard.
- On a group of professionals organised in a Committee and particularly motivated in this new field.
- On the search for impartiality by inducing independent scientific expertise.
- On the search for quality by being selective but not excessively restrictive, so that a sufficient variety of formulations can continue to exist.

To be transparent, the 2022 and subsequent versions will follow the major stages of the Life Cycle of a product in order to integrate them into the certification process for Ecodetergents and Ecodetergents made with organic and to participate in societal change.

IV. The logic of the standard

In order to be environmentally sound, the entire life cycle of the detergent product should be taken into account by clarifying the rules and definitions for each stage.

Article one describes the criteria for PRODUCT DESIGN.

Article two specifies the rules for the SOURCING and SELECTION OF RAW MATERIALS.

Article three is about PRODUCTION.

Article four concerns PACKAGING.

Article five looks at TRANSPORT AND MARKETING.

Article six frames the USE of Ecodetergents and the rules around users.

Article seven applies to the END OF LIFE of the product and packaging.

The last article explains the conditions of APPLICATION OF THE STANDARD with the process of certification and the conditions of evolution of the standard.

V. The regulatory bases

Users of this Standard are required to comply with all regulations in force in the countries where they produce and/or distribute certified detergent products, and in particular in Europe:

- The Detergents Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 and its amendments.
- Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures and its amendments (CLP).
- Regulation (EC) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 concerning the availability on the market and use of biocidal products, consolidated on 20 November 2019 (BIOCIDES) and its amendments.

Any amendment to an EC Regulation described in this chapter will be applicable from the date of its entry into force, even before the updating of this standard.

Compliance with current regulations is a prerequisite for certification and is the responsibility of the applicant. This aspect is therefore not a criterion assessed by ECOCERT Greenlife.

In the event that local regulations disagree with this standard, it is the responsibility of the company to inform ECOCERT Greenlife.

Articles of the standard

I. Product design

A. Definition of a detergent

This standard applies to detergents as defined by Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 and its subsequent amendments. Detergent is therefore defined here as:

"Any substance or preparation containing soaps and/or other surfactants intended for washing and cleaning processes. Detergents may be in any form (liquid, powder, paste, bar, cake, moulded piece, shape, etc.) and be marketed for or used in household or institutional or industrial purposes."

Also included in the definition of the Regulation are:

- Auxiliary washing preparations.
- Laundry fabric softeners.
- Cleaning preparations.
- Other cleaning or washing preparations.

B. Certify your product

It is up to each applicant for certification to verify that the products submitted comply with this definition. As a reminder, formulated bases must be certified. A formulated base is defined as a mixture of ingredients formulated as a base to manufacture detergent products (e.g. soap base, neutral base without perfume, etc.).

C. Design the composition of your finished product

1. The two labels

Indications of conformity	% of organic ingredients in the total ingredients of the finished product (mass ratio)	% limit of certain categories of ingredients in the finished product (mass ratio)
ECODETERGENT	No minimum requirement *(any use of an organic ingredient will however be valued)*	The ingredients in Appendix I.A.1 are limited to a maximum of 5%.
ECODETERGENT MADE WITH ORGANIC	10% minimum	The ingredients of Appendix I.A.1 and the sequestrants of Appendix I.A.4 are limited to a maximum of 5%.

In this standard, detergent products certified at each level of labelling will be referred to as "Ecodetergents" or "Ecodetergents made with organic", without this constituting a characterisation of their environmental properties.

2. Specific rules for Ecodetergents

Ecodetergents cannot be certified if they carry one or more of the hazard statements listed in Appendix V on the product label.

3. Specific rules for Ecodetergents made with organic

Ecodetergents made with organic cannot be certified if they:

- Contain disinfectant substances, if claimed as such.
- Contain ethoxylated surfactants (unless they are 100% of natural origin) in accordance with Appendix II.B.
- Contain quaternary esters (unless diluted in a plant-based solvent) in accordance with Appendix II.C.
- Contain TAED, glycolic acid or polyaspartic acid, in accordance with Appendix I.A.1.
- Have any risk phrase on the label. However, concentrated products, if they are developed in such a way that contact with the user is impossible under normal conditions of use, may carry risk phrases, except those set out in Appendix V.

4. Specific rules for concentrated products

The development of concentrated products is part of an approach to reduce environmental impacts, particularly those linked to transport.

Definition:
A product is considered as "concentrated" within the meaning of the present standard, when it respects the following points:

- It is formulated in such a way as to limit the water content, thus a minimum concentration is required.
- Its use involves either dilution or dissolution in water.
- Quantitative reconstitution information is mentioned on the label of the concentrated product.
- The reconstituted ready-to-use product must be able to be used several times after reconstitution.

The "concentrated" nature of the detergent product will be studied on a case-by-case basis by ECOCERT Greenlife. The specific rules for concentrated products are described in Appendix IV.

5. The absence of nitrosamines

Ingredients and finished products must not generate nitrosamines.

D. Design the manufacture of your product

1. Traceability and flow control

The traceability of the ingredients to the finished product (= internal traceability within the production unit) and from the finished products to the consumers (= external traceability outside the production unit) as well as the accounting follow-up of the inputs/outputs within the company must be rigorously implemented, recorded and available for consultation by the auditor.

The operator must keep the following documents available:

- Follow-up and/or accounting record(s) (quantitative) where applicable of receipts/purchases (raw materials and/or finished products), shipments/sales (finished products), stocks (raw materials and/or finished products).
- Follow-up and accounting records for raw materials and/or semi-finished/finished products (purchase invoice, purchase summary, delivery note, production sheet, etc.) in order to trace the origin, nature and quantities of all raw materials and/or products received as well as their possible use within the company (internal traceability).
- Follow-up and accounting records for marketed products (purchase invoice, sales invoice, delivery note, etc.) in order to trace the origin, nature, quantities as well as recipients of all marketed products (external traceability).
- Follow-up and accounting records of stocks at regular intervals (physical and computerised inventories, etc.) for marketed products and raw materials in order to ensure the conformity of the material flow within the company.
- The exact composition of the products manufactured.

2. Animal testing

They are prohibited.

E. Quality system

The operator must have a control system to check and control compliance in particular:

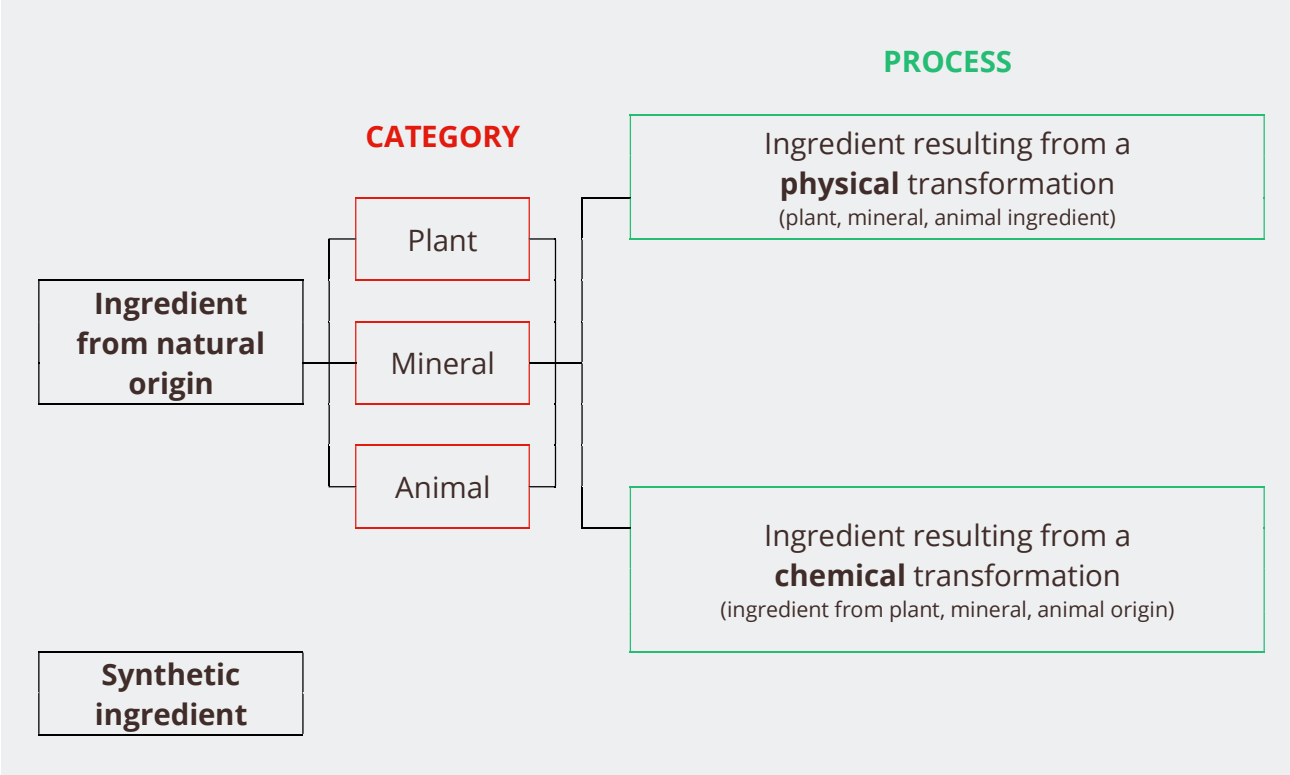
- Raw materials and suppliers.
- Subcontractors, handlers and associated products.
- Products marketed and/or services provided.
- Production operations and cleaning and disinfection products.
- Production and analysis equipment.
- Labelling and communication documents (commercial, technical, etc.).

II. Sourcing and choice of raw materials

A. Compliance obligation for all ingredients

100% of the ingredients used in a certified detergent must comply with current detergents regulations and the criteria defined in paragraphs II.B to II. C. The company must also ensure that the ingredients and their derivatives are guaranteed to be free of contaminants.

B. Definition and rules for different types of ingredients



1. Ingredients from natural origin

The total percentage of natural origin of a product is the sum of the ingredients of natural origin defined below plus the natural contribution of substances containing synthetic moieties.

a) Plant ingredient or plant-based ingredients

- They are all allowed as long as their production or wild harvesting does not lead to landscape degradation and ecosystem imbalance, and they are not endangered species.

- They must not be present on the national and international lists of protected species (Cf. Washington Convention CITES or Regulation (EC) No. 338/97, consolidated on 1 January 2020; List of protected species on the whole of French territory: Order of 20 January 1982 and its subsequent amendments) or must benefit from the appropriate import permits and CITES certificates.
- There is no specific positive list of them in this standard.
- They shall be obtained using the physical or chemical processes authorised in Appendix III. They must be guaranteed non-GMO.
- Plant ingredients may not be extracted with petrochemical solvents (except in special cases listed in Appendix I.A.5).

b) Mineral ingredients or ingredients from mineral origin

- They may be used provided that they are obtained without intentional chemical modification or treated by means of authorised processes. Their production process must comply with the list of physical or chemical processes listed in Appendix III of the standard.
- Mineral ingredients are not positively listed.
- Ingredients of mineral origin are the subject of a positive list in Appendix I.A.3 of the standard. Any addition of a new ingredient to this list will be done in compliance with chapter VIII, relating to the modifications of the standard.

c) Animal ingredients or ingredients from animal origin

- They are allowed insofar as they are not restricted according to national and international lists of protected or dangerous species. So, they must not be present on the national and international lists of protected species (Cf. Washington Convention CITES or Regulation (EC) No. 338/97, consolidated on 1 January 2020; List of protected species on the whole of French territory: Order of 20 January 1982 and its subsequent amendments) or must benefit from the appropriate import permits and CITES certificates.
- Certain animal products, whose removal does not have a negative effect on environmental balances and which do not have alternative of the same nature in the plant world may be used. They may not be constitutive of the animal, nor cause it stress, suffering or death, and must be naturally produced by it.
- Their production process must comply with the list of physical or chemical processes listed in Appendix III of the standard.

2. Synthetic ingredients

Definition:
A synthetic ingredient is any ingredient derived, wholly or partially (synthetic moiety), from the petrochemical industry.

- They may not be used in the composition of a product covered by this standard.
- However, without prejudice to European detergent regulations, preservatives complying with Appendix I.A.1 of this standard are allowed in the ingredients or the finished product to ensure the preservation of certain detergent products.
- Other ingredients listed in Appendix I.A.1 that do not have a preservative function and sequestrants as defined in Appendix I.A.4 are also accepted.
- If an ingredient is composed of both natural origin and synthetic moieties, the exact percentage of each part is taken into account in the calculation of the overall percentage.

3. Fermented ingredients, enzymes and bacteria

Definition:
An ingredient produced by the action of a micro-organism on a substrate.

- This substrate must comply with the naturality criteria set out in paragraph II.B.1 in relation to its original environment.
- The product of the biotechnological reaction must be guaranteed GMO-free. The manufacturer of the material must provide proof of the absence of DNA or any other active material that could be derived from the micro-organism used (via PCR *Polymerase Chain Reaction* or any other method to be justified).
- Enzymes may not be of animal origin unless they comply with Article II. B.1.c.
- On request, claims concerning the absence of biotechnology and/or its derivatives may be subject to additional verification by ECOCERT Greenlife.
- Nutrients such as trace elements, salts and vitamins should be removed from the final medium as far as possible.
- If bacteria are directly incorporated into the formulation of a certified detergent, they must be guaranteed non-GMO.
- The substrates must also be guaranteed non-GMO.
- Any additives such as stabilisers and dilution solvents of non-natural origin are authorised insofar as the impossibility of their substitution is technically justified.

C. Rules applied to certain ingredient functions

1. Disinfectant active substances

Certain active disinfectant substances (and their stabilisers) are only accepted in Ecodetergents if they are notified by Regulation (EC) No 528/2012.

They are listed, together with their corresponding specific requirements, in Appendix I.A.2.

2. Certified organic ingredients

a) General

Any certified ingredient that meets the definition of an Organic Farming regulation (EC, NOP, JAS or equivalent) may be used.

Raw materials certified as organic by this standard, by the ECOCERT Greenlife Natural and Organic Cosmetics standard or by the COSMOS standard are also accepted.

Ingredients from both plant and animal categories may be involved.

b) Case of aqueous extracts

The calculation of the organic percentage of an aqueous extract is carried out as follows (data in kg):

Step 1:

$$Ratio = \frac{fresh\ organic\ plant}{final\ extract\ -\ solvents}$$

If the ratio is greater than 1, then it is counted as 1.

Step 2:

$$organic\ \%\ of\ the\ extract = \left(\frac{ratio\ \times (extract - solvents)}{extract} + \frac{organic\ solvents}{extract}\right) \times 100$$

Conditions:

- The amount of solvent considered is the amount of solvent present in the final extract.
- Water is not considered a solvent.

In the absence of solvent *(glycerine, ethanol...)*, the organic percentage of the extract is therefore:

$$organic\ \% = \frac{initial\ quantity\ of\ fresh\ organic\ plant}{final\ quantity\ of\ extract} \times 100$$

To calculate the equivalent weight introduced in fresh plant when a dry plant is used, it is possible:

- To use the actual "dry plant/fresh plant ratio of the material" provided by the material manufacturer.
- Or to use the following ratios:
    - Wood, bark, seeds, nuts, roots 1 : 2.5
    - Leaves, flowers, aerial parts 1 : 4.5
    - Fruits (e.g. apricot, grape) 1 : 5
    - Watery fruits (e.g. pineapple, orange) 1 : 8

c) Case of non-aqueous extracts

Non-aqueous extracts will be counted up to the quantities of organic ingredients initially introduced (data in kg):

$$organic\ \% = \frac{organic\ plant^* + organic\ solvent}{plants^* + total\ solvent} \times 100$$

**fresh or dry*

d) Case of soaps

When manufacturing soaps from raw materials (using plant oils), the organic percentage is calculated according to the following formula (data in kg):

$$organic\ \% = \frac{starting\ RM_{organic} - starting\ RM_{organic\ in\ excess}}{starting\ RM_{total} - starting\ RM_{total\ in\ excess}}$$

RM= Raw material

When using soap noodles and if other ingredients are added, the organic percentage is calculated according to the following formula:

$$organic\ \% = \frac{\sum[(\%organic\ of\ each\ ing)X\ (quantity\ in\ \%\ of\ each\ formula\ ingredient)]}{100}$$

3. Perfumes and dyes

Only perfumes and dyes of natural origin are authorised if their production processes are physical or chemical processes in accordance with Appendix III. Perfumes and dyes of petrochemical origin (including natural identical ones) are not authorised, even if they are foodstuffs.

4. Surfactants

Only surfactants of plant origin (see II.B.1.a) and whose production processes comply with Appendix III are authorised.

Soaps based on resin acids derived from conifers as well as cationic surfactants (except those complying with the requirements of Appendix II) are not allowed due to their very high aquatic toxicity.

Some plant-based surfactants containing a synthetic moiety are tolerated but only in Ecodetergents and if they comply with the requirements of Appendix II. These requirements are intended to put in place a temporal and quantitative limitation on their use.

5. Water

Water is considered to be a mineral ingredient. As such, it cannot be organic. Nevertheless, it is included in the sum of the ingredients for the calculation of the organic percentage of the finished product.

The water must be deemed unpolluted by microbiological and physicochemical contaminants and may be:

- Potable water
- Spring water
- Water obtained by osmosis
- Distilled water
- Sea water

In the case of an internal water treatment system, the system must comply with the processes permitted in Appendix III and avoid stagnation and the risk of contamination. The resulting water must be of defined quality.

Water quality should be verified either by testing or by monitoring treatment system parameters.

Pure concentrates and dried powders may be reconstituted to their original natural state provided that:

- Reconstitution is carried out before addition to a formulation.
- The concentrate or powder does not contain any other ingredients, additives or carriers.

In this case, the water of rehydration may be counted as organic, if the powder or concentrate is.

6. Other ingredients

a) Phosphates and other phosphorus ingredients

Due to the eutrophication they cause, they are banned as ingredients in all detergents including laundry detergents and automatic dishwashing detergents for consumers as defined in Regulation (EU) No 259/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2012 (amending Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 as regards the use of phosphates and other phosphorus compounds in laundry detergents for consumers and automatic dishwashing detergents for consumers).

b) Ethanol

Only ethanol of natural origin is accepted. If denatured, synthetic denaturants may be authorised under specific conditions (exhaustive list and conditions in Appendix I.A.1), without prejudice to local or general regulations in force.

If their use is validated by the relevant competent authorities:

- Denaturants of natural origin are also allowed.
- Tert-Butyl Alcohol may be used in addition to one or more components of the Eurodenaturant for partial denaturation.
- Any other partial denaturation that is not of natural origin must be studied by ECOCERT Greenlife before authorisation.

In addition, the denaturant must be identified on the label in the composition of the product by its chemical name/INCI.

c) Sodium chloride

The sodium chloride (salt) must be of mineral origin and the use of a petrochemical anti-caking additive such as ferrocyanide is prohibited.

III. Production

A. Raw material control systems

1. Raw material compliance

When receiving a raw material, the operator checks the integrity of the packaging and the conformity of the product to the requirements of this standard.

When the check leaves doubts about the origin of a raw material or about a supplier, this raw material may not be processed until this doubt has been eliminated, unless the product obtained from it is placed on the market without an indication linked to this standard.

2. Compliance guarantees for organic raw materials

The operator must ensure the origin of the raw materials, in particular by the presence of organic guarantees (reference to the indication of conformity and, where appropriate, to the reference standard and/or the certification body) on the following documents: invoice, delivery note and label. In addition, a certificate of conformity with the organic production method must be presented and valid at the time of the transaction.

3. The case of raw material distributors

In the case where the raw material supplier has only a distribution activity, traceability must be maintained and verified to the original declared supplier.

This implies for any raw material (organic or not):

- The absence of repackaging and therefore the reference to the name of the original supplier on the packaging of the products delivered (invoices and delivery notes).
- The presentation of a transaction document or a certificate from the distributor to verify the original supplier.

This also implies, specifically for a certified organic raw material:

- The presentation of a certificate of conformity with the organic production method in the name of the supplier of origin and valid at the time of the transaction.
- The reference to organic quality on the packaging and transaction documents and, if applicable, on the certificate mentioned above.

B. Storage of ingredients and finished products

Storage conditions must ensure full traceability and avoid any risk of contamination, confusion or mixing.

C. Production operations

They must be carried out in complete series, separated physically or in time from similar operations concerning products not covered by this standard.

They must be carried out according to manufacturing processes that comply with Appendix III of this standard.

All measures must be taken to ensure batch identification and to avoid any risk of mixing, contamination or confusion.

D. Cleaning and disinfection operations

Definition:
By cleaning and disinfection operation, the present standard means all the steps carried out between two productions (of certified or non-certified products) allowing to:

- Ensure a level of cleanliness, appearance and non-contamination of a surface/equipment.
- Avoid contamination of the products covered by the standard by other products, including the cleaning/disinfecting products used.

The rinsing stage is an integral part of this operation.

Since the production covered by this standard must in no case result in the use of non-compliant products, cleaning and disinfection operations **before** and **after** any production of products covered by this standard must be carried out with cleaning and disinfection products that comply with the requirements defined in Appendix VII.

Cleaning/disinfection operations with product(s) complying with Appendix VII **before** production of products covered by this standard are intended to:

- Ensure that there is no contamination with a non-compliant product.
- Reduce the environmental impact of this production.

Cleaning/disinfection operations with product(s) complying with Appendix VII **after** production of products covered by this standard seek to reduce the environmental impact of this production.

Surfaces in contact or likely to come into contact with ingredients (tanks, packaging line, small equipment, etc.), bulk, semi-finished or finished products must be cleaned/disinfected with a product that complies with Appendix VII.

Where ingredients or products are not stored on pallets or in such a way as to avoid contact with the floor (and thus possible contamination), the floor cleaning/disinfecting products must comply with the requirements of Appendix VII.

Any product used in an environmental treatment that may come directly or indirectly into contact with the products covered by this standard must comply with Appendix VII.

E. Subcontracting and handling

In order to ensure the traceability and quality of the subcontracted/handled products, the transaction documents (invoices, delivery notes, intermediate labels) must bear the certification guarantees (reference to the quality and, if applicable, the reference standard and/or the certification body).

- Example in the case of subcontracting: " ECOCERT Ecodetergent" or "ECOCERT Ecodetergent made with organic" depending on the quality of the product.
- Example in the case of processing (service provision): " ECOCERT Service Provision".

In addition, a certificate and/or attestation of compliance with this standard must be presented and valid at the time of the transaction.

F. Environmental protection measures

Any company involved in the certification process, as well as its non-committed partners, regardless of their activities, must put in place a series of measures adapted to their internal control procedures aimed at protecting the environment throughout the product life cycle. These measures must include at least:

- An Environmental Analysis Plan to identify activities, products and services that have a significant impact on the environment.
- An Environmental Management Programme to define, manage, implement, and achieve the company's environmental objectives.

This standard considers that a company's ISO 14001 approach allows it to comply with these requirements.

1. Discharge management

The Environmental Management Programme must take into account the study of the impact of discharges (waste from an industrial activity, in a gaseous, liquid or fluidised solid state).

Companies with no emissions from the manufacture or packaging of Ecodetergents are not subject to this criterion.

2. Waste management

All companies must commit to improve waste management and therefore at least:

- Separate cardboard, glass, paper and other materials.
- Recycle or treat all waste.
- Entrust products that are sent for specific destruction and non-recyclable packaging within the company to another company specialising in recycling.

3. Energy management

Every company should engage in an energy management improvement process, with the objective to plan an ever-broader use of renewable energies and an increasing call for energy-saving measures. It should therefore, at least:

- Implement staff training on good practices to reduce energy consumption.
- Disseminate good practices for reducing energy consumption (e.g. turning off the computer at night).

IV. Packaging

A. Primary packaging

The packaging will be done with the strictest respect for the environment and therefore in recyclable and low energy consuming forms and volumes.

Wherever possible, packaging should be made from materials that benefit from a material value recovery channel (e.g. glass, aluminium, paper/cardboard, PP, PET, PE). Packaging from renewable resources is accepted. Packaging made from dead animals or animals that die (leather, silk, etc.) is prohibited.

For any other material submitted, a study of the technical file will be made taking into account one or more of the following criteria:

- Resources used and processes for manufacturing the material.
- Use: primary packaging, secondary packaging...
- Technicality (subject to ECOCERT Greenlife's assessment after studying the file).
- Possible substitution with another material.
- End of life of packaging: reuse, recycling...

Manufacturers should make every effort to market a refill system for their products. Concentrated refills, with a limited amount of water, should be preferred.

B. Secondary packaging

The use of secondary packaging must be justified and it must be biodegradable. However, specifically for refills, any secondary packaging may simply be recyclable.

C. Restrictions and prohibitions

1. Single-dose cases

Definition:
The term single-dose refers to all products where the dose required for one use is contained in a single package. Products contained in water-soluble packages are also considered to be single-dose.

The use of a single-dose unit should make it possible to limit waste by having a dosage adapted to the use, without generating additional waste.

For this reason, single doses sold with individual secondary packaging are prohibited.

The primary packaging material of the unit dose should be biodegradable if water soluble, or recyclable if not.

The following are allowed by the standard:

- Solid products sold in single-dose packages (tablets, powder) for any purpose.
- Liquid products sold in single-dose packs for washing machine and dishwasher products.
- “Large volume” single-dose products whose infrequent use would alter the effectiveness of the product itself if it were to be sold in a "classic" format, i.e. individual doses (e.g. toilet unclogger).

To be able to respond to innovations in this field which do not meet the criteria set out above, ECOCERT Greenlife reserves the right to carry out a technical study, taking into account in particular the dosage, frequency of use and environmental impact.

2. Wipes

Impregnated wipes are not allowed.

3. Prohibited materials

The use of certain materials such as vinyl polymers (e.g. PVC) and styrenics (e.g. PS) will be systematically refused.

4. Overwrapping

Over-wrapping, such as the cellophaning of cases, is prohibited.

5. Propellants

Only the following propellants may be used: air, oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide and argon.

V. Transport and marketing

D. Transport

1. Follow-up

The conditions of transport must be such that there is no risk of confusion, mixing or contamination, particularly for products transported in bulk and unpackaged.

2. Environmental impact

The Environmental Management Programme must take into account the study of the transport of goods (raw materials, equipment, products etc.) as well as the transport of employees.

As a reminder, the Environmental Management Programme applies to any company involved in the certification process, as well as its non-committed partners.

E. Marketed products

In order to ensure the traceability and quality of the products marketed, the transaction documents (invoices, delivery notes, intermediate labels) must bear the certification guarantees (reference to the quality and, where appropriate, to the reference standard and/or the certification body):

For example, " ECOCERT Ecodetergent" or " ECOCERT Ecodetergent made with organic", depending on the quality of the product, meet this requirement.

For mentions on labels intended for the final consumer, refer to paragraph VI.C. of these standards.

A certificate of compliance with this standard must be presented and valid at the time of the transaction.

A sample of each batch of certified finished product must be kept for at least the duration of the product's life and in at least sufficient quantity to carry out the tests to verify compliance with this standard.

VI. Uses and information for users

A. Users of certified products

Products for private, professional and public use can be certified.

B. Suitability for use of the finished product

In the interests of user confidence, the suitability for use of a detergent certified by ECOCERT Greenlife must be satisfactory and substantiated.

The product must meet the user's expectations in terms of cleaning or washing efficiency at the minimum temperature, minimum dosage and conditions of use recommended by the manufacturer.

Proof of the minimum effectiveness of the product in accordance with the properties claimed on the label must be provided via laboratory performance tests or via a user test (see TS46 document).

This criterion refers to the main function of the detergent product (i.e. neither secondary functions nor disinfecting properties, if any).

C. Labelling

Communication on labels and other communication materials should be clear and should not mislead consumers (see TS005). As mentioned in the preamble, it is the responsibility of the company to ensure that the labels comply with the regulations in force.

1. References to the certification body

The reference to the certification body is in the following form and wording:

Detergent certified by ECOCERT Greenlife according to the ECOCERT "Ecodetergent" standard available on http://detergents.ecocert.com

OR

Detergent certified by ECOCERT Greenlife according to the ECOCERT "Ecodetergent made with organic" standard available on http://detergents.ecocert.com

depending on whether the product is certified according to the Ecodetergent or Ecodetergent made with organic label defined in I.C.

2. Certification logo

The following logos, whose graphic charter must be respected (see TS006), must be used to claim certification under the conditions defined in the labelling guide (TS005), available on request.

For "concentrated" products, the specific provisions for the use of the logo are described in Appendix IV.

3. Claims for the characteristics of the standard

The percentage of ingredients of natural origin (as defined in paragraph II.B) must be displayed in the following forms:

X% of the total ingredients are from natural origin.

(or X% of the ingredients are from natural origin).

If ingredients from Organic Farming are used and the manufacturer wishes to claim this, the percentage of ingredients from Organic Farming must be displayed, the ingredients from Organic Farming are then marked in the composition by an asterisk referring to the following mention:

*** X% of the total ingredients are from Organic Farming.**

(or *X% of the ingredients are from Organic Farming).

4. Transparency obligations on composition

The display of the full composition shall be in accordance with the all the regulations in force, including those mentioned in Foreword. Compliance with regulatory requirements is the responsibility of the client.

Regarding all ingredients whose declaration is not covered by regulatory provisions, they must be listed:

- Via the additional categories defined by this standard in Appendix VI.
- In common language, by chemical name or by INCI name for ingredients not corresponding to any previously defined category or for organic ingredients.

- However, it is possible for a candidate for certification not to use the additional categories defined by this standard in Appendix VI and therefore to detail the ingredients.

These categories or ingredients are then listed:

- Either in the usual "Composition" paragraph and subdivided into content ranges,
- Or in a paragraph called "Also contains:" and located just below, in which they can be listed regardless of their content.

5. User information

In the case of "concentrated" products, specific precautions and precise instructions for dilution must appear on the label. In addition, a clear and legible statement on the front panel must indicate that the product is a concentrate. These points are defined in Appendix IV.

6. Product for professional use

According to the regulations, the composition of products for professional use does not have to be displayed on the label. However, it must be included on the product data sheet or safety data sheet.

The other statements must always be present on the label.

D. Communication documents

Communication documents referring to ECOCERT and/or certification by ECOCERT must comply with the rules below:

- No confusion for the consumer regarding the guaranties delivered by the certification (for example, if a certification statement (or a logo) is used on the document, the consumer must not think that a non-certified product is certified).
- If mention of the percentages and organic ingredients, these have to be correct. The use of a logo is subject to the same rules as for labels.
- The use of the word ORGANIC in the product's name is subject to the same rules as for labels.
- As the Ecodetergent standard is a French standard, the Consumer Code applies and requires that the following 3 items of information be brought to the attention of the consumer or user: the name of the certification body, the name of the certification standard used, and the methods by which the certification standard can be consulted or obtained.

VII. End of life

A. Biodegradability of the finished product

Where the ultimate biodegradability of the finished product formula according to OECD 301 series methods is claimed on the product label, it shall be effectively measured. The applicant shall provide evidence of this. This criterion is applicable unless constrained by regulations.

B. End of life of the packaging

As a reminder, paragraph III.F.2 imposes a commitment to improve waste management.

The Environmental Management Programme should cover all residual products and the resulting waste, especially packaging. It must be implemented effectively. In practice, this programme aims to reduce, reuse and recycle waste in an efficient and rational way and its implementation and progress will be checked every 3 years.

In order to minimise the direct and indirect environmental impacts of packaging during its life cycle, it is necessary to:

- To reduce the amount of material used.
- Maximise the amount of material that can be reused or recycled.
- And to use recycled materials wherever possible.

During audits, it must be possible to demonstrate that these measures have been taken for each packaging format used. Packaging must be checked against these criteria at least every three years. Evidence of this should be available, for example by keeping records of these review meetings or by having a formal policy in place. All of the elements should be included in the Environmental Management Programme.

VIII. Application of the standard

A. Certification process

The certification process is organised on an annual cycle. Ultimately, it leads to grant or maintain the certificates authorising the company to produce and market products referring to the certification and/or ECOCERT.

The detailed certification process is attached to the Ecodetergents and Ecodetergents made with organic standard when requesting information from ECOCERT.

B. Modification of the standard

Changes to the standard are made within the framework of industrial product regulations.

To ensure that the requirements of the standard are relevant and in line with environmental and scientific developments and consumer expectations, the requirements will be reviewed at most every 3 years.

The certification standard is a technical document defining the characteristics that a detergent product must have and the modalities for checking the conformity of these characteristics. The elaboration and the modification of the standard foresee in particular the consultation of the interested parties, at least:

- Professionals who make products.
- Consumer associations or representative bodies or, where appropriate, the users themselves.

This consultation is carried out with the ECOCERT Greenlife Scheme Committee, whose members have applied for membership and whose mission is to make the following recommendations:

- Technical recommendations on product requirements (for the customer).
- Technical recommendations on certification requirements for the client.
- Technical recommendations on the requirements for the certification body.
- Technical recommendations on internal procedures related to the programme.

C. Updates and information

ECOCERT Greenlife undertakes to inform the companies committed to this standard by any means of the changes made to the standard, the implementation methods and to make the modified version of the standard available to them on the ECOCERT website.

This standard should be seen as a living document, subject to updating and improvement.

In the event of a change to the standard, ECOCERT Greenlife undertakes to define and communicate a transition period. No withdrawal of products already on the market may be required, unless required by law, provided that the products comply with the old version of the standard.

D. Implementation of this standard

1. Entry into force

This standard will come into force on December 12th, 2024.

2. Application and transitional measures

For companies already committed (or having partners already committed) before August, 1st 2022, products can be certified according to version of February 2017 until March, 31st 2026.

Thus, from April, 1st 2026, all certified products will have to comply with this new version.

Appendices

Appendix I: Authorised petrochemical ingredients, disinfectants and ingredients of mineral origin

A. Ingredients allowed regardless of the type of detergent

1. Pure synthetic ingredients

INCI name	CAS NO.	Function	Other information
Eurodenaturant: Isopropyl alcohol Methylethylketone Denatonium benzoate	 67-63-0 78-93-3 3734-33-6	Denaturant	 *1% (vol. denat. alcohol)* *1% (vol. denat. alcohol)* *0,01 g/l denat. alcohol*
Isopropyl alcohol	67-63-0	Denaturant	*Any partial denaturation above the levels of the Eurodenaturant will require authorisation from the competent authorities*
Methylethylketone	78-93-3	Denaturant	*Any partial denaturation above the levels of the Eurodenaturant will require authorisation from the competent authorities*
Denatonium benzoate	3734-33-6	Denaturant	*Any partial denaturation above the levels of the Eurodenaturant will require authorisation from the competent authorities*
Tert-butyl alcohol	75-65-0	Denaturant	*Requires authorisation from the competent authorities. Total content (TBA + possibly 1 or more components of the Eurodenaturant) lower than that of the Eurodenaturant*
Sorbic Acid **Potassium Sorbate**	110-44-1 24634-61-5	Preservative	/
Sodium Benzoate	532-32-1	Preservative	/
TAED (Tetraacetylethylenediamine)	10543-57-4	Bleaching agent	*Not permitted in Ecodetergents made with organic*
Glycolic Acid (and its salts)	79-14-1	All	*Not permitted in Ecodetergents made with organic*
Polyaspartic Acid (and its salts)	617-45-8	All	*Not permitted in Ecodetergents made with organic*

2. Disinfectant active substances

Disinfectant substance	CAS NO.
Ethanol	64-17-5
Peracetic Acid	79-21-0
L-(+)-lactic Acid	79-33-4
Hydrogen Peroxide	7722-84
Glycolic Acid	79-14-1
Acetic Acid	64-19-7

Ethanol, lactic acid, hydrogen peroxide and acetic acid must be of natural origin (as defined in II.B.1). Peracetic acid and glycolic acid may be of natural or synthetic origin.

Their possible stabiliser may be of natural or synthetic origin. However, in the latter case, its function must be proven.

3. Ingredients of mineral origin

INCI or common name	Function
Aluminium Oxide	All
Sodium Carbonate, Magnesium Carbonate, Potassium Carbonate, Calcium Carbonate, Silicon Carbonate, Sodium sesquicarbonate	All
Sodium Chloride, Magnesium Chloride, Potassium Chloride, Calcium Chloride	All
CI 75810, 75815 (Chlorophyll complex)	Dye
CI 77163 (Bismuth Oxychloride)	Pigment
CI 77742 (Ammonium and Manganese Diphosphate)	Pigment
CI 77745 (Manganese Bis-orthophosphate)	Pigment
CI 77891 (Titanium Dioxide)	Pigment
CI 77480, 77491, 77492, 77499 (Iron Oxide)	Pigment
CI 77711 (Magnesium Oxide)	Pigment
CI 77713 (Magnesium Carbonate)	Pigment
CI 77947 (Zinc Oxide)	Pigment
Potassium Hydroxide (Potash)	All
Sodium Hydroxide (Soda)	All
Silicates	All
Sodium sulfate	All
Zeoliths	All

4. Authorised sequestering agents

A synthetic sequestering agent may be used in a certified detergent provided that it meets the following conditions:

- Biodegradability > 60% according to OECD 301 series.
- Acute toxicity to aquatic organisms:
    - LC50 on fish >10mg/L for 96h *(OECD 203 or equivalent).*
    - EC50 on crustaceans >10mg/L for 48h *(OECD 202 or equivalent).*
    - EC50 on a variety of algae >10mg/L for 72 or 96h *(OECD 201 or equivalent).*

5. Ingredients accepted by derogation

Certain ingredients for which there is no alternative that complies with this standard are accepted by way of derogation.

This appendix will be revised according to the availability of alternatives that comply with the standard, regulatory developments and/or new technical or scientific data.

- Plant ingredients extracted by petrochemical solvent:

Ingredient (Chemical name)
Lecithin (hexane extract)
Tocopherol (hexane extract)
Chlorophyll (only as part of dye's manufacturing process)

- Ingredients of natural origin containing synthetic moieties (amphoteric and moiety up to C3 on fatty chain or polymer of plant origin) authorised:

Ingredient (Chemical name)
Alkylamphoacetate / Alkylamphodiacetate
Alkylbetaine / Alkylamidopropylbetaine
Alkyl Methyl Glucamide
Alkylsulfosuccinate
Isopropyl laurate / palmitate

- Animal ingredient:

Ingredient (Chemical name)
Calcium oxide from shells from: - a valorization of shellfish aquaculture co-products - a collection of naturally dead shellfish

B. Ingredients allowed in laundry detergents

INCI or common name	Function
Carboxymethyl Cellulose	Anti-redeposition agent/Viscosant
Carboxymethyl Inulin	Anti-redeposition agent/Viscosant

C. Ingredients allowed in powdered detergents

INCI or common name	Function
Sodium Percarbonate	Bleaching agent

Appendix II: Choice of surfactants

A. Reminder on the nature of surfactants

Only surfactants derived from renewable resources and transformed by processes authorised by Appendix III are permitted.

B. Ethoxylated surfactants

By way of derogation and during a transitional period which will end when alternatives exist on the market, synthetic ethoxylated anionic and non-ionic surfactants (SF) with ethylene oxide may be used in the composition of products covered by the standard only for the Ecodetergent label. They are prohibited in Ecodetergent made with organic label.

The total amount (anionic and non-ionic) of ethoxylated surfactants with synthetic ethylene oxide in relation to the total amount of surfactant is limited (in mass of active material). The same applies to the total amount of synthetic ethylene oxide (as a moiety of the surfactant):

	Total amount of ethoxylated SF on total amount of surfactant *(in mass of active material)*	**Total amount of synthetic ethylene oxide on the formula**
Until 31/03/2026	30%	2%
From 01/04/2026 *(except for exempted products* that remain at the previous amounts)*	20%	1%

***Exempted products :**
The following are exempt from the lowering of the ethoxylated surfactant thresholds and therefore remain at the current threshold of 30% et 2% :

- Laundry machine products,
- Dishwashing products for dishwashers,
- Industrial products (including Cleaning-In-Place systems, CIP).

C. Quaternised esters

Plant-based quaternised esters may be allowed as cationic surfactants if they are readily biodegradable and their solvent, if any, is a plant-based solvent or isopropanol. These ingredients can only be used in softener-type products.

However, for the Ecodetergent made with organic label, only a solvent of plant origin will be allowed.

D. Biodegradability of surfactants

Only surfactants with an ultimate biodegradability of more than 60% within 28 days according to EN ISO 14593 and an anaerobic biodegradability of more than 60% within 60 days according to EN ISO 11734 are allowed.

Appendix III: Allowed and Prohibited Physical and Chemical Processes

A. List of allowed processes

1. Allowed physical processes

List of processes
Absorption / Adsorption (using inert materials and in accordance with the standard)
Discoloration, deodorising (except of materials of animal origin)
Grinding
Centrifugation
Decantation
Desiccation – drying
Deterpenation with water vapour
Distillation (authorised solvents: water, CO2, natural origin solvents)
Extraction (natural solvents)
Filtration (using inert materials and in accordance with the standard)
Lyophilization
Mixture
Pressure
Sterilisation by heating
Gas sterilisation (those permitted in Organic Farming: O_2, N_2, Ar, He, O_3 and $scCO_2$)
UV, IR and microwave sterilisation
Screening

2. Allowed chemical processes

List of processes
Alkylation
Calcination, carbonization
Condensation / addition
Electrolysis
Esterification / Transesterification / Interesterification
Etherification
Biotechnology / Natural fermentation
Amide formation
Hydration
Hydrogenation
Hydrolysis
Neutralisation
Oxidation / reduction
Amphoteric manufacturing process (formation of amide and quaternisation)
Saponification
Sulphation
Roasting

B. List of prohibited processes

List of processes *(non-exhaustive list)*
Discolouration / Deodorising of materials of animal origin
Deterpenation (with petrochemical solvent)
Use of petrochemical ethylene oxide (unless exempted, see Appendix II) for sterilisation or as a reagent.
Irradiation by ionising radiation (X-rays, alpha, beta, gamma, etc.) – also for finished products
Genetic modifications
Sulfonation
Extraction of plant ingredients by petrochemical solvents (hexane, toluene...)

Appendix IV: Concentrated products to be diluted/dissolved

There are many different forms and levels of concentration for "concentrated" products. All the requirements of the standard apply to concentrated products.

However, derogations apply in the following cases:

Ecodetergents made with organic:

If the concentrated product is developed in such a way that contact with the user is not possible under normal conditions of use, then the product may carry a risk phrase, except those set out in Appendix V.

Ecodetergents:

If the product is sufficiently concentrated (at least 4 times*) and the ready-to-use product complies with all the requirements of the standard, then the concentrated product may have a total synthetic ethylene oxide content above the permitted threshold and carry an environmental risk phrase if it is not associated with the environmental hazard pictogram.

In this case, specific rules apply for certified products:

- The logo and certification information cannot be placed on the front of the product. In fact, the logo and certification information must appear on the back of the label.
- A clear and legible statement on the front panel must indicate that the product is a concentrate to be diluted/dissolved.
- Precise instructions for dilution and specific special precautions should be included on the label in the form:

  "Concentrated product, must not be released into the environment in its concentrated form; in accordance with the instructions for use, the ready-to-use formula complies with the ECOCERT "Ecodetergent" standard."

*This means:

  - 250ml of concentrate to dilute to make 1L of ready-to-use product
  - 100g of solid product is equivalent to 1L of ready-to-use liquid product

Appendix V: Hazard statements and their prohibition

Finished products with the following hazard statements are not eligible for certification:

Code	Meaning
H200	Unstable explosive
H201	Explosive; mass explosion hazard.
H202	Explosive, severe projection hazard
H203	Explosive; fire, blast or projection hazard
H204	Fire or projection hazard
H205	May mass explode in fire
H240	Heating may cause an explosion
H241	Heating may cause a fire or explosion
H250	Catches fire spontaneously if exposed to air
H251	Self-heating: may catch fire
H252	Self-heating in large quantities; may catch fire
H260	In contact with water releases flammable gases which may ignite spontaneously
H261	In contact with water releases flammable gases
H270	May cause or intensify fire; oxidiser
H271	May cause fire or explosion; strong oxidiser
H280	Contains gas under pressure; may explode if heated
H281	Contains refrigerated gas; may cause cryogenic burns or injury
H300	Fatal if swallowed
H301	Toxic if swallowed
H304	May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways
H310	Fatal in contact with skin
H311	Toxic in contact with skin
H330	Fatal if inhaled
H331	Toxic if inhaled
H340	May cause genetic defects
H341	Suspected of causing genetic defects
H350	May cause cancer
H350i	May cause cancer by inhalation
H351	Suspected of causing cancer

H360	May damage fertility or the unborn child
H360D	May damage the unborn child
H360Df	May damage the unborn child. Suspected of damaging fertility
H360F	May damage fertility
H360Fd	May damage fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child
H360FD	May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child
H361	Suspected of damaging fertility or the unborn child
H361d	Suspected of damaging the unborn child
H361f	Suspected of damaging fertility
H361fd	Suspected of damaging fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child
H362	May cause harm to breast-fed children
H370	Causes damage to organs
H371	May cause damage to organs
H372	Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure
H373	May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure
H400	Very toxic to aquatic life
H410	Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects
H411	Toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects
H412	Harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects
H413	May cause long lasting harmful effects to aquatic life
H420	Harms public health and the environment by destroying ozone in the upper atmosphere

Besides, any new hazard statement involving GHS levels 01, 04, 06, 08 and 09 respectively Explosive, Pressurised Gas, Toxic, Sensitising, Carcinogenic, Mutagenic, Reprotoxic and Environmentally hazardous will be prohibited even before being included in the above list.

Appendix VI: Additional categories for labelling

Below are the additional categories for the labelling of certified products, in accordance with Article VI.C. 4 of this standard.

Additional categories
abrasives
glycolic acid (and its salts)
polyaspartic acid (and their salts)
anti-redeposition agents
alcohols
bases
waxes
dyes
acidity regulator
pH regulator
water
emollients
esters
glycols
oils
essential oils
pigments
salt (for NaCl, KCl only)
carbonate salts
sulphate salts
sequestrants
silicates
solvents
stabilizers
vinegar
viscosants, thickeners

The origin (as defined in II.B) of a category may be mentioned if the ingredients it contains are of similar origin (e.g. plant colouring agents or mineral base).

As specified in paragraph VI.C.4 of the standard, ingredients that do not correspond to any category of Regulation EC/648/2004 or those defined above are mentioned on the label in common language, by chemical name or by INCI name. However, the request for the creation of a new category for these ingredients may be studied by ECOCERT Greenlife after consultation with the Scheme Committee.

Appendix VII: Requirements for authorised products for cleaning and disinfection of facilities

Each cleaning product used by the company must be verified by ECOCERT Greenlife to ensure its compliance.

A. Labelled detergents

Detergents certified by ECOCERT Greenlife or equivalent are systematically accepted. Also, ingredients authorised for use in detergents certified according to this standard can be used.

B. Disinfectants

As an indication, disinfecting substances as defined in II.C.1 can be used. In addition, isopropanol can also be used.
(Reminder: This ingredient cannot be used in a certified detergent, except for denaturant)

C. Prohibited substances

In accordance with all the requirements set out in this standard, the following products and ingredients are prohibited:

- Formaldehyde.
- Ethylene diamine tetra-acetic acid (EDTA).
- Genetically modified products.
- Products containing chlorine or chlorine derivatives.
- Ammonia-based products.
- Phosphate and phosphonate products.

D. Requirements for surfactants rejected by the standard

Surfactants that are rejected in certified detergents but potentially used in facility cleaning products must meet the following criteria:

- Surfactants must be plant-based.
- Low aquatic toxicity *(EC50 or IC50 or LC50 > 10 mg/l or equivalent test).*
- Ultimate, rapid and complete biodegradability *(OECD 301 series > 70% in 28 days)* in aerobic and anaerobic conditions.
- Ethoxylated surfactants on a plant basis and complying with the criteria presented in Appendix II are allowed.

E. Requirements for other ingredients rejected by this standard

Ingredients that are rejected in certified detergents and are not covered by the above requirements but are potentially used in facility cleaning products must also meet the above criteria or not have the following environmental risk phrases given in the CLP Regulation: H400, H410, H411, H412, H413.