

## Ensuring safety

A.I.S.E. manufacturers of biocidal products are committed to providing quality products which meet high standards of human and environmental safety, support the end-user on a daily basis and thus contribute to the wellbeing of society. Like all other products, it is very important before using any biocidal product to read, understand and follow the instructions on the label or any other information provided with the product.

## EU regulatory framework

The current Biocidal Products Directive (98/8/EC) has set the foundations for improving the level of environmental and public health protection, by establishing a harmonised regulatory framework for biocidal products across Europe. However certain elements of the system still need improvement.

A.I.S.E. therefore welcomes the move from a Directive to a Regulation as proposed by the European Commission on 12 June 2009. The proposal includes improvements in areas such as the simplification of procedures, clarity of processes and timings, and dispute resolution. A.I.S.E. looks forward to contributing its constructive input and expertise to the development, adoption and implementation of an effective legislation.



## A.I.S.E. - the voice of the soaps, detergents and maintenance products industry

Created in 1952, A.I.S.E. represents the soaps, detergents and maintenance products industry. Its affiliates include National Associations in 42 countries and also ten direct member companies. Combined membership of the current 37 National Associations totals more than 900 companies, ranging from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to multinationals, active in the household market and Industrial and Institutional sector (I&I). The estimated total market value of A.I.S.E.'s full membership is around 41 billion Euros.

### Useful links and sources of information related to A.I.S.E. and biocidal products:

[www.aise.eu](http://www.aise.eu)  
[www.cleanright.eu](http://www.cleanright.eu)  
<http://ecb.jrc.ec.europa.eu>  
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biocides/index.htm>

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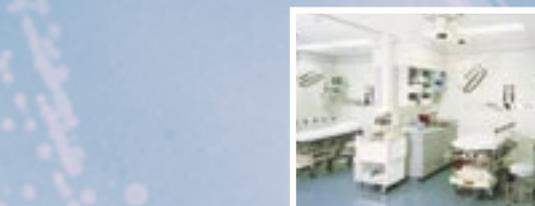
A·I·S·E

Association Internationale de la Savonnerie, de la Détergence et des Produits d'Entretien  
International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products

# BIOCIDAL PRODUCTS

## Our Allies In Health and Hygiene

### WHEN and WHERE it Counts



Responsible editor: V. Séjourné, A.I.S.E. - Printed on recycled paper - Copyright/Crédit photo for bacteria pictures: Institut Pasteur- September 2009

*Working together for a cleaner Europe*

## What are biocidal products?

**Biocidal products** are defined in the current European legislation as “Active substances and preparations containing one or more active substances, put up in the form in which they are supplied to the user, intended to destroy, deter, render harmless, prevent the action of, or otherwise exert a controlling effect on any harmful organism by chemical or biological means.” (Biocidal Products Directive, 98/8/EC)



Biocidal products falling under A.I.S.E.'s product portfolio provide hygiene and disinfection when and where needed, protecting public health and contributing to the well-being of the user.

In many parts of the world, hygiene is still a critical challenge, and lives are lost every day due to unsafe water, poor sanitation and poor hygiene. In Europe, hygiene standards are relatively high, but the outbreaks of SARS, avian and swine flu, and MRSA have raised public awareness and concern about the spread of infectious diseases and the need for hygiene as a first line of defence.

A.I.S.E. member companies make biocidal products mainly for disinfection and household insect control. Biocides are also used in small amounts as in-can preservatives in a variety of products to maintain product quality.

List of the official Product Types (PTs) from the Biocidal Products Directive covered by A.I.S.E.: PT 1: Human hygiene biocidal products; PT 2: Private area and public health area disinfectants and other biocidal products; PT 3: Veterinary hygiene biocidal products; PT 4: Food and feed area disinfectants; PT 6: In-can preservatives; PT 18: Insecticides, acaricides and products to control other arthropods; PT 19: Repellents and attractants.

## Their benefits for health and hygiene

### In the home and in public places

General hygiene practices – especially hand hygiene, food hygiene and personal and surface hygiene – help control transmission of germs. Specific cleaning products with biocidal active substances help in reducing and preventing microbial contamination in key high risk areas and minimise cross-contamination between them, at critical times.



*Escherichia coli* – Bacteria spread in toilets. They can cause serious food-poisoning in humans.



*Aspergillus sp* – Fungi spread in hospitals. They can cause serious, even fatal infections.

### Good hygiene - a tiered approach

#### Hygiene

Hygiene is the practice through which people maintain or promote good health by making themselves and their surroundings clean, by cleaning and – when needed - disinfecting surfaces, units, surroundings and items of personal use in order to break the chain of infection.

### In hospitals

Disinfectants in medical and people's care institutions (e.g. hospitals, elderly homes and kindergartens) provide direct protection against infection risks for patients, staff and visitors. As hospitals are places where people suffering from infectious diseases and also vulnerable people normally have to live together very closely, many of the micro-organisms can be very dangerous - sometimes even life-threatening. A good hygiene regime plays an essential role in reducing the risk of cross-contamination and cross-infection. Biocidal products are mainly used by professionals and also cover very specialist applications such as the disinfection of linen.



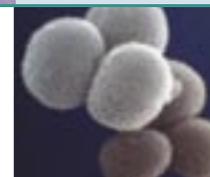
### For consumer safety

The food and beverage, and catering and hospitality industries are also important users of disinfectants. Incidents with, for example, Salmonella in eggs and poultry and Listeria in dairy products illustrate the importance of maintaining strict hygiene conditions in the handling of food and its subsequent processing to avoid food-borne diseases.



*Salmonella* - Most common bacteria found in food. They cause illnesses in humans and many animals (e.g. typhoid fever and salmonellosis).

*Staphylococcus aureus* – Bacteria which are one of the causal agents of mastitis in dairy cows.



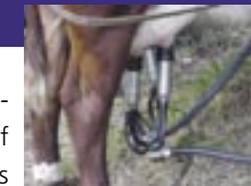
### Disinfection

In situations where there is high risk of transmission of germs (e.g. when there is someone in the home who is infected or is vulnerable to infection), the targeted use of a disinfectant helps prevent infections.

**Disinfectants are products that contain biocidal active substances with antimicrobial properties. These destroy the spread of harmful organisms. Their use is particularly required in specific industrial and institutional areas.**

### For animal welfare

Veterinary applications of disinfectants and insect control products are vital for both animal welfare and public health. Diseases like foot and mouth disease are extremely contagious and must be immediately tackled if detected. Disinfection of stables, stores of animal feed, and transport vehicles plays an essential role. Udder washes and teat dips are used to prevent contamination.



### For household insect control

Insect-borne diseases such as malaria, Lyme disease and chikungunya can lead to serious illness and sometimes even death. Within the home, cockroaches, moths and other pests can do significant damage to the home, food and other belongings. Along with good hygiene practices, insect control products are one of the most effective ways of preventing or overcoming infestations.



The cockroach can spoil food and is a carrier of various pathogens, dangerous for humans.