

# Hong Kong Green Label Scheme

## Product Environmental Criteria for Industrial Cleaner (GL-003-006)



### BACKGROUND

The Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS) is an independent and voluntary scheme, which aims to identify products that are, based on life cycle analysis consideration, more environmentally preferable than other similar products with the same function. The Scheme is organized by the Green Council (GC) with contributions from the HKGLS Advisory Committee and a number of supporting organizations.

The prime objectives of HKGLS are:

- For Consumers: assist in making purchases of products that are less harmful to the environment;
- For Industry: stimulate development and production of environmentally preferable alternatives.

This specification sets out the requirements that industrial cleaner products will be required to meet in order to be licensed to use the HKGLS label. The requirements include environmental criteria and related product characteristics. The specification also defines the testing and other means to be used to verify conformance with the requirements.

### POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Industrial cleaners are widely used in industries of Hong Kong for removal of oil and grease from hard surfaces. These cleaners contain various chemical ingredients such as surfactants (surface active agents) that perform the main cleaning function, also water softeners, bleaches, preservative, dyes and any other Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). The discharge of the industrial cleaners and/or their prepared solution presents a significant burden on our environment in terms of wastewater loading, air pollution and subsequent treatment, as well as resource consumption and disposal of packaging materials.

### LABEL OBJECTIVE

The aim of the environmental criteria developed for “industrial cleaners” is to:

- Reduce the toxicity of wastewater arising from the use of industrial cleaners, and to help reduce the environmental loading of sewage treatment facilities and the receiving water bodies;
- Reduce the release of toxic gases arising from the use of industrial cleaners; and
- Minimize waste production by reducing the amount of primary packaging.

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**PRODUCT DEFINITION**

This document and all product environmental criteria therein apply to all industrial detergents.

Criteria	Verification Method
1. The detergent shall be easily biodegradable.	A,C
2. The detergent shall not contain the following substances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Non – biodegradable complexing agents such as ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA)</li><li>• APEO (alkyl phenol ethoxylate); and</li><li>• Phthalates</li></ul>	A or C
3. Chlorinated organic solvents shall not be present in the product.	A or C
4. The detergent shall contain the following substances in a limited level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NTA (nitriilo-tri-acetate) shall not exceed 5 g/litre;</li><li>• the total Phosphorus content shall not exceed 2 g/litre;</li></ul>	A or C
5. The product shall not contain more than 10% (by weight) of volatile organic compounds.	A or C
6. Colour Pigments: only food and cosmetics dyes shall be used	A or C
7. Packaging Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maximum packaging limit: 18g per 100g of product in use.</li><li>• General packaging requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Packaging materials shall not contain chlorine-based plastics.</li><li>◦ The plastics shall preferably carry a plastic resin identification code <b>(optional)</b>.</li></ul></li></ul>	B,C,D

Legend:

A - Analytical testing shall be performed by laboratories that meet the requirement laid out in the EN45001 standards or any equivalent systems (e.g. HOKLAS, IEC/ISO 17025)

B – Inspection of product samples

C- Review of supporting information as required by the GC

D – Interviews with relevant personnel and/or site visits to relevant facilities

Council Directive 76/768/EEC of 27 July 1976 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products Annex IV – Part 1 List of colouring agents allowed for use in cosmetic products (See Resources Centre at <http://www.greencouncil.org/eng/greenlabel/res.asp>).

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Council Directive 94/36/EEC of 30 June 1994 on colours for use in foodstuffs (refer to Annex 1) (See Resources Centre at <http://www.greencouncil.org/eng/greenlabel/res.asp>).

**Notes on Verification Method**

1a Appropriate *test* results, showing that the surfactants used are aerobically biodegradable shall be provided.

1b Ingredients will be considered readily biodegradable if the level of biodegradability measured is at least 60% within 28 days.

2 The applicant shall provide documentation to confirm that the listed substances have not been included in the product.

3 The formulation of the product shall be provided together with the details of the constituent substances.

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5 The formulation of the product shall be provided, with a declaration of compliance with this criterion.

6 A declaration of compliance with this criterion shall be provided together with a full list of all dyes or colouring agents used.

7 A description of the materials used in packaging and labels and an empty package shall be provided, together with a declaration that the packaging materials do not contain chlorine-based plastics.