



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE
Directorate B – Fair and Sustainable Economy
Circular Economy and Sustainable Industry

Revision of the EU Ecolabel criteria for detergent and cleaning products

*Minutes of the meetings (1st and 2nd) of the working sub-group (sub-AHWG) on
Microbial Containing Products (MCP)*

DRAFT



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1 Introduction

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) organised Ad Hoc working sub-groups (sub-AHWG) as part of the revision of EU Ecolabel criteria, aimed at feeding, cross-checking and improving draft criteria proposals made on specific aspects. The scope could be as wide as a criterion *and/or* a number of product groups but also really specific, as examining a particular material/ingredient type within a product sub-group. Whatever the case, it requires the involvement of experts on the chosen topic due to the highly technical nature *and/or* specificity of the exchanges expected during the sub-AHWGs meeting/s. The product groups (PGs) under the scope of the EU Ecolabel criteria under revision are:

- | | |
|--|------|
| • "Dishwasher detergents" | DD |
| • "Industrial and institutional automatic dishwasher detergents" . | IIDD |
| • "Laundry detergents" | LD |
| • "Industrial and institutional laundry detergents" | IILD |
| • "Hard surface cleaning products" | HSC |
| • "Hand dishwashing detergents" . | HSC |

These PGs are treated horizontally, meaning that there won't be a separated sub-AHWG for each particular product group but rather all discussions on a particular topic for the six PGs will be happening together on the same day.

The sub-AHWGs steps for the revision of the EU Ecolabel criteria for detergent and cleaning products were:

1. Sub-AHWG formation -> JRC released a Call for Expression of Interest (CfI) during May 2025 and then stakeholders confirmed their willingness to participate. After the CfI deadline, the JRC notified relevant parties about their membership in the sub-AHWGs and provided the necessary information for the upcoming meeting/s (i.e. background paper).
2. First (1st) sub-AHWG meeting -> In this 1st sub-AHWG meeting the JRC introduced the topic and clarified any doubt surrounding the background information provided beforehand, inclusive of any questions that may have been shared. The aim was to ensure effective understanding and gathering of relevant/missing data/information. Participants shared their comments *and/or* replies to these questions prior to the deadline set by JRC (e.g. via *EU survey* platform; using JRC's template). These substantiated/contributed to a new criteria draft proposal which was discussed in the 2nd sub-AHWG meeting. For this initial meeting the duration estimated was 1-2 hours, being modified according to expected participants/topics to be covered.
3. Second (2nd) sub-AHWG meeting -> In this 2nd sub-AHWG meeting the JRC presented a draft criteria proposal informed by/based on the feedback received in the 1st sub-AHWG meeting. This proposal was circulated prior to the 2nd AHWG meeting, highlighting changes made and specific new discussion points/questions. The aim was to gather specific feedback enabling fine-tuning of this draft criteria proposal. Participants shared their feedback during the meeting, then being reflected in a final version of the background document and used to fine-tune the proposal presented. This curated proposal, inclusive of any further work carried out by the JRC, will be brought for discussion during the 2nd AHWG meeting. For this last meeting, the expected duration was 2-4 hours, being modified depending on expected participants/topics to be covered.

This document provides information about the two (1st and 2nd) meetings held during the lifetime of the technical working sub-group on *Excluded and Restricted substances* criterion, particularly *microorganisms* sub-criterion (MCP sub-AHWG). All necessary details have been included except the feedback received from participants, which for the sake of brevity and coherence has been integrated as part of the background document (v3; final) supporting MCP sub-AHWG activities. All documents (minutes + background document + presentations) have been made publicly available (within the folder *2023 revision documents*): at <https://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/product-bureau/product-groups/411/documents>

The JRC invites sub-AHWG participants to check the correctness of the minutes elaborated and the feedback provided (integrated in the sub-AHWG background documents). Shall you deem any details as incorrect or inaccurate, please let us know your suggested course of action by contacting us via email at JRC-B5-DETERGENTS@ec.europa.eu. Note that the deadline to provide such comments is the 3rd of April 2025. From this date the JRC will assume the minutes are correct and it will deem them as definitive.



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2 List of organisations involved in the MCP sub-AHWG

<i>Organizations expressing interest in participating</i>
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
Procter & Gamble (P&G)
Unilever
Diversey / International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products (AISE)
Association for Microorganisms in Animal Environment – Europe (AMAEE)
Evonik Operations GmbH
Novozymes A/S, Denmark
IFF
YOKUU
AFNOR
PFS Group
HEIQ CHRISAL
DR.SCHNELL GmbH & Co. KGaA
Ecolab
Ecolabelling Finland
AFIDAMP (Italy)
Everdrop GmbH
Werner & Mertz GmbH
CHIMICA HTS



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3 First (1st) *Microbial containing products (MCP)* sub-AHWG meeting

The meeting was held on the 25/06/24, from 10:00 to 11:30, in virtual format (webex). Prior to it, the JRC shared an initial version of the background document (v1) containing: 1) the mapping of issues/improvable aspects; 2) potential actions and; 3) questions to prime discussions.

There was no fixed agenda given the flexible approach towards this initial meeting, where the general aim pursued by the JRC was to introduce the functioning of the MCP sub-AHWG to then present the background document, aiming to ensure a shared understanding on the information provided and the feedback requested.

The meeting was structured as follow:

1. *Introduction* – The JRC provided a general introduction to the EU Ecolabel criteria under revision and particularly on MCP sub-AHWG related aspects (aims / process / timeline / supporting documents).
2. *MCP sub-AHWG – questions / discussion* – The JRC presented the questions (Q1-Q24) included in the background document (v1) shared prior to the 1st meeting. The presentation followed the structure in such document (i.e. *Existing criteria; Scope expansion, Performance*), firstly intervening the JRC to subsequently opening the floor to participants for comments.
3. *Next steps + Any other business* - the JRC described next MCP steps (i.e. EU survey completion initial deadline 17/07/24 then extended to 12/08/24); 2nd MCP sub-AHWG meeting) and opened the floor for AOB, with no comments raised by participants

Note that all comments shared during this 1st meeting were included in the background document (v2) shared prior to the 2nd meeting, alongside the feedback received via EU survey from participants answering to the questions raised (Q1-Q24). This was integrated and can be consulted in the final version of the background document (v3) in the first three sections (*Existing criteria; Scope expansion, Performance*) within their sub-section 3 (*Feedback to 1st sub-AHWG meeting*).



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4 Second (2nd) *Microbial containing products (MCP)* sub-AHWG meeting

The meeting was held on the 01/10/24, from 09:30 to 11:30, in virtual format (webex). Prior to it, the JRC shared the 2nd version of the background document (v2), whose first three sections (*Existing criteria: Scope expansion, Performance*) had the following sub-sections: 1) the mapping of issues/improvable aspects; 2) potential actions; 3) feedback to 1st FfU meeting questions. Note that sub-sections 1) and 2) were identical to the respective sub-sections within the initial version of the background document (v1).

Then a new section was added, with subsections containing: the new draft criteria proposal (2nd version; 1st version displayed in TR1); rationales associated with changes made; further questions to prime discussions (Q26 – Q31). These were the focus for discussions during the 2nd FfU sub-AHWG meeting.

The agenda was:

Time	Topic / Block
09:30 – 09:40	Introduction – 2 nd MCP sub-AHWG meeting overview
09:40 – 11:20	Discussion on draft criteria proposal & associated questions
11:20 – 11:30	Next steps + Any other business (AOB)

The aim of this meeting was to highlight the proposals (changes) made the new draft criteria proposal (v2) and gather feedback on it, via responses to the new set of questions raised (questions 25-31) and/or via any other related comments.

The meeting was structured as follow:

1. *Introduction* – The JRC provided a general introduction to the EU Ecolabel criteria under revision and particularly on MCP sub-AHWG related aspects (aims / process / timeline / updated supporting documents, inclusive of proposals for change).
2. *MCP sub-AHWG – questions / discussion* – The JRC presented the changes proposed in the draft criteria proposal for the sub-criterion *microorganisms*. This followed the same structure as in the new section of the background document (v2), thus presenting a highlight of the changes and associated rationales grouped by topic, with further questions to prime discussions. The JRC intervened first, presenting the proposals and related questions and then opened the floor for comments.
3. *Next steps + Any other business* - the JRC described next MCP steps (i.e. curated proposal expected by the 2nd AHWG in Q1 2025) and opened the floor for AOB, with no comments received.

Note that all comments shared during this 2nd meeting, mainly structured around Q25 to Q31, were integrated and can be consulted in the final version of the background document (v3) within the section *New draft criteria proposals*, in its sub-sections (*Feedback to 2nd MCP sub-AHWG meeting*).



5 Next steps

The 2nd Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) is scheduled during the 12th (half-day; afternoon) and 13th of March (whole day) 2025 in hybrid attendance mode (Brussels + virtual). During this 2nd AHWG all the draft criteria proposals contained in the 2nd Technical report (TR2) will be discussed and another round of feedback will be opened, for any interested stakeholder to provide comments. This can be done during the meeting but primarily is made in written via the BATIS platform (See <https://eippcb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/batis/>). Relevant supporting documents in preparation for this 2nd AHWG (e.g. TR2) will be published in this website (within the folder *2023 revision documents*): <https://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/product-bureau/product-groups/411/documents>

In this 2nd AHWG there might be new proposals to those discussed during the 2nd sub-AHWG on MCP, resulting from the feedback received by the JRC after this 2nd sub-AHWG plus any additional evidence gathered (e.g. further research). Consequently, for full understanding on the process conducive to the draft criteria proposals on MCP-related aspects contained in the 2nd Technical report (TR2), consider the background document to the sub-AHWG published here (within the folder *2023 revision documents*): <https://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/product-bureau/product-groups/411/documents>

Finally, note that all registered stakeholders receive updates on the progress of the revision of the EU Ecolabel criteria for detergents, informing about milestones reached, when draft documents are released and how to participate/engage in the process (e.g. by providing feedback). If you or any interested party would like to become a stakeholders of this EU Ecolabel criteria revision, then you can do so by registering in the following dedicated website (specify *Detergents* as product group of interest): <https://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/product-bureau/product-groups/411/register>.

In addition, relevant information is posted on BATIS but especially on the dedicated website to this revision project, namely here: <https://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/product-bureau/product-groups/411/home>. You can also contact the JRC team in charge of this revision project at the following email: JRC-B5-DETERGENTS@ec.europa.eu