

News Release

Industry welcomes federal initiative to regulate lower phosphorus content of automatic dishwasher detergent in Canada

Ottawa, February 15, 2008 – The Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA) said it supports Environment Minister John Baird's announcement today concerning the Government of Canada's intent to regulate the phosphorus content of household automatic dishwasher detergent, manufactured for sale in Canada, to a maximum of 0.5 per cent by weight, effective 2010.

CCSPA's member companies initiated an industry-led program in September 2007 to significantly reduce the phosphorus content of household automatic dishwasher detergent to a maximum of 0.5 per cent by weight. The Governments of Manitoba and Quebec also announced late last year their intent to create similar provincial phosphorus level limits.

"We believe a national regulation will create a level playing field across Canada for consumers and our industry," said Shannon Coombs, CCSPA President, "and we welcome this opportunity to work with the federal government to amend the federal *Phosphorus Concentration Regulations* under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*."

"Our member companies produce 86 per cent of all household automatic dishwasher detergent sold in Canada," she said. "We are committed to finding replacements that are as effective and have sound environmental profiles. A 2010 implementation date will provide us with the time to conduct the required research to develop new formulations for these beneficial products."

CCSPA was disappointed that the Minister did not indicate the government's intention to provide an exemption for commercial and institutional uses of automatic dishwasher detergents. "We will be working with Minister Baird to ensure the federal regulations allow limited amounts of phosphorus in these important uses as it is a vital ingredient to ensure the health and safety of Canadians," Ms. Coombs said. Sanitation for dishes in hospitals, nursing homes, schools and restaurants is a priority for CCSPA and our members."

Similar regulatory and legislative changes are underway in several U.S. states for household automatic dishwasher detergent. "An integrated and harmonized North American market is critical to ensure consumers continue to have access to quality brands and products and that our industry remains competitive globally," Ms. Coombs said.

The scope of the government's announcement today to include general purpose cleaners and laundry is not warranted. For nearly a decade, CCSPA members companies have eliminated the phosphorus content in laundry detergents due to the current federal regulation. CCSPA is willing to work with Minister Baird on the government's scientific analysis regarding the inclusion of general purpose cleaners in the proposed regulation.

Ms. Coombs also noted that reducing the amount of phosphorus content in automatic dishwasher detergent will not solve the “blue-green algae” problem present in some Canadian waterways because automatic dishwasher detergent accounts for only **one per cent** of all contributions. “CCSPA is hopeful that future regulations set the stage to bring forward solutions regarding the main sources of phosphorus contributions, including human sewage waste and agricultural run-off.”

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CCSPA is a national trade association representing Canada’s consumer, industrial and institutional specialty products industry. Its mission is to enhance the ability of its 47 member companies to conduct business fairly, ethically and effectively by fostering industry cooperation, providing a national voice for communications and developing effective partnerships with governments, other stakeholders and the public.