

News Release

Industry welcomes federal initiative to regulate lower phosphorus content of household products in Canada

Ottawa, June 27, 2008 – The Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA) said it is pleased the federal government today officially proposed regulations for the phosphorus content of household products such as laundry detergent, dishwashing compounds, and general purpose cleaners manufactured for sale in Canada, to a maximum of 0.5 per cent phosphorus by weight, effective July 1, 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 this national regulation will create a level playing field across Canada for consumers and our industry," said Shannon Coombs, CCSPA President, "and we welcome the proactive initiative of this government."

"Our member companies produce 86 per cent of all laundry detergents, dishwashing compounds, and general purpose cleaners 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."

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.

Ms. Coombs also noted that reducing the amount of phosphorus content in household products 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 46 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.