

News Release

Industry welcomes Quebec regulation to lower phosphorus content of automatic dishwasher detergent

Ottawa, December 13, 2007 – The Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA) said today it is pleased the government of Quebec has announced the introduction of a regulation to limit the phosphorus content of household automatic dishwasher detergent manufactured and sold in the province to a maximum of 0.5 per cent by weight, effective July 2010.

CCSPA's member companies initiated an industry-led program in September to limit the phosphorus content of household automatic dishwasher detergent, with the same goals being proposed by the Quebec regulation and legislation announced by the province of Manitoba in November.

"We want to create a level playing field across Canada for both consumers and our industry," said Shannon Coombs, CCSPA President. "To achieve this, we would welcome working with the Government of Canada to amend the federal *Phosphorus Concentration Regulations* under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)* to reflect the Quebec and Manitoba initiatives on a national basis."

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

In addition to the provinces of Quebec and Manitoba, similar regulatory and legislative changes are underway in several U.S. states. "An integrated and harmonized North American market is critical to ensure consumers have continued 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 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. "Hopefully, this will set the stage to bring forward solutions regarding the main sources of phosphorus contributions, including human sewage waste and agricultural run-off."

Canada already regulates the phosphorus content of laundry detergent.

- 30 -

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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.