

## News Release

# Industry to significantly lower phosphorus content of automatic dishwasher detergent in Canada

**Ottawa September 26, 2007** – The Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA) said today its member companies have begun an industry-led initiative to limit the phosphorus content of household automatic dishwasher detergent manufactured for sale in Canada to a maximum of 0.5 per cent by weight, effective July 2010. The phosphorus content in these products is currently between 3.7 per cent and 8.7 per cent.

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

“Regulatory and legislative changes with these same goals are currently underway in several U.S. states. This Canadian initiative will provide an integrated and harmonized North American market, which is critical to ensure consumers have continued access to quality brands and products, and that our industry remains competitive globally,” she said.

Ms. Coombs said CCSPA looks forward to working with the Government of Canada on this initiative, which it believes is in line with the objectives of the North American Security and Prosperity Partnership. “We urge the federal government to amend the federal *Phosphorus Concentration Regulations* under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)* to reflect this reduction. This request would be consistent with the governments of Manitoba and Quebec, which have also asked for federal leadership on this important issue.”

Ms. Coombs 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.

Canada already regulates the phosphorus content in laundry detergent.

- 30 -

**For more information, please contact:** Shannon Coombs, CCSPA President,  
(613) 232-6616 ext. 18, [coombss@ccspa.org](mailto:coombss@ccspa.org).

**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.