

# Summary of Changes

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## Machine Dishwashing Detergents (2013)

### What's changed in Machine Dishwashing Detergents (2013)?

Major changes in **bold**

- **'Environmental Scoring Matrix' removed.** GECA certified domestic machine dishwashing detergents will now be environmentally preferable across all aspects of their lifecycle, not just some.
- Phosphates criterion strengthened. Now all GECA certified domestic machine dishwashing detergents must not contain any phosphates.
- All potentially biodegradable ingredients must be biodegradable. Further, all surfactants must be both aerobically and anaerobically biodegradable.
- Increased requirements on the use of enzymes, ensuring that manufacturing procedures are responsible and safe.
- New criterion to address the use of chlorine based and perborate bleaching agents in machine dishwashing detergents.
- **Compulsory limits on sodium introduced to help prevent environmental salinity and the use of 'fillers'.** 'Fillers' are ingredients that serve no functional purpose except to bulk the product, and are a waste of resources.
- New criteria on environmental claims, ensuring GECA certified products make only verifiable claims.
- New alkalinity criterion to enhance the safety of manufacturers, consumers and dishwasher waste.
- **Hazardous materials criteria greatly strengthened.** These criteria now ban the use of chemicals that can cause cancer, mutations or reproductive toxicity. Further, they limit the use of chemicals classified as contact sensitizers or environmentally hazardous, and ban the use of chemicals that can bioaccumulate.
- Updated packaging requirements to better address the materials used in packaging and ensure environmental preferability.
- **New waste minimisation criterion.** This criterion has been implemented across all recently released GECA standards, and aims to ensure raw materials are used efficiently with waste is kept to a minimum.

For more information, please see the Technical Comparison for the GECA Machine Dishwashing Detergent standards, or contact the Standards Team at GECA.