



Biocides

Harmful or harmless?

General

Biocides are chemical or biological agents used to combat or minimise the effects of unwanted organisms. They are often used in the home as well as public spaces and business premises. These include anti-fouling paint for ships, agents for pest control such as woodworm, fleas, mice or cockroaches, disinfectants in hospitals and anti-bacterial treatment of drinking water pipes. Biocides are not intended to protect crops (see leaflet pesticides), but are permitted for specific uses other than agriculture and horticulture.



Biocides in the environment

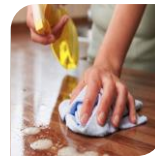
Biocides are spread in the environment by wind, rain, run-off and leaching from soil into ground and surface water. Some are poorly degradable, are found worldwide and accumulate in food chains. In addition to their intended effect on the unwanted organism, the active ingredients of biocides can also

have adverse effects on other organisms. This makes them a risk to health and the environment. Moreover, due to unnecessary and incompetent use of biocides, organisms such as rats and fungus, can develop resistance to the active substances and become an even greater threat to public health.



Legal context

Before biocides may be used they are first assessed for effectiveness and human and environmental safety. This is laid down in the European Directive 98/8/EG. In the Netherlands biocides are covered by the Plant Protection Products and Biocides Act. The Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides assesses biocides for hazardous properties as part of an authorisation procedure before they may be sold. The Dutch government's VROM Inspectorate coordinates enforcement and exercises supervision. Other supervisory authorities involved are the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, Labour Inspectorate and Water Boards.



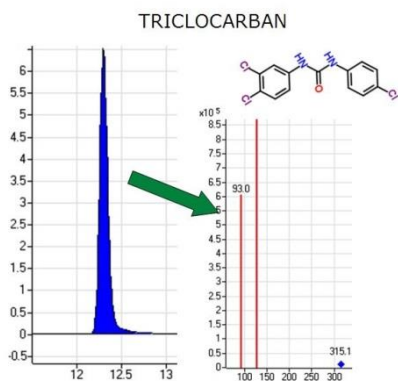
Eurofins accredited testing

There is a wide and diverse variety of biocides available. Eurofins has compiled an analysis package which tests for biocides that are no longer permitted as well as those frequently found in environmental samples. Using modern analysis techniques based on identification with mass spectrometry, compounds can be unequivocally identified and reported with extremely low reporting thresholds. Eurofins scientifically determines based on the analysis of samples tested, whether traces of the active substances in biocides and/or degradation products are present.

More information

Eurofins is looking forward to carrying out your biocide analyses. For additional information concerning analyses, reporting, rates, delivery times, service and more, please contact us via your contact person or mail us at: info-env@eurofins.nl.

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Mass spectrum of Triclocarban. Use of this chemical has not been permitted in the EU since 2009