

## How do you deal with dangerous products in the workplace?

Although biocides are effective in controlling unwanted organisms, they can pose a risk to your health. That is why it is important to protect yourself and your employees and **to use, store and dispose of biocides correctly**. The authorisation act, the label and the Safety Data Sheet of the product will get you started.

Only biocides authorised by the federal government can be sold on the Belgian market. If in doubt, consult the **list of authorised products** on the website [www.biocide.be](http://www.biocide.be).



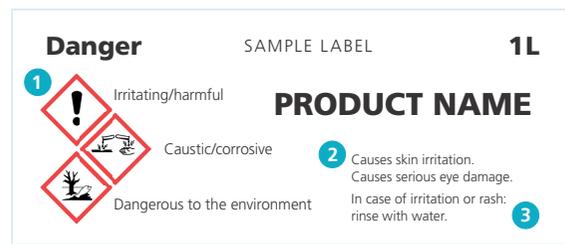
## Identify the products, their hazards and their risks

If dangerous products such as biocides are used in your company, as an employer you are obliged to draw up a **risk assessment** that monitors the safety and health in the workplace.

- Identify all hazardous products, e.g. through the label.
- Collect information on the correct use of these products, for example via the authorisation acts, the possible Summary of the Product Characteristics (SPC) or the Safety Data Sheets.
- Identify the risks associated with the dangerous products.
- Take appropriate measures to limit these risks. Provide protective clothing, for example.

You can consult the authorisation act and the SPC in the list of authorised products.

### Label



The label contains the most important information on the dangers and risks of the product.

- 1 The **hazard pictograms** show the dangers of a product.
- 2 The **hazard statements** describe the seriousness of these dangers and the circumstances in which they occur.
- 3 The **precautionary statements** explain how to limit the risks and what to do in the event of an accident.

The authorisation acts mentions the conditions of use of the biocide and states whether the biocide belongs to the closed circuit and what personal protective equipment you need (see paragraph 8).

# Biocides in the cleaning sector

## What do you need to know as a professional user?

[www.biocide.be](http://www.biocide.be)

## What are biocides?

Biocides are **pesticides** that are used to deter, render harmless or destroy unwanted organisms. Examples are disinfectants, insecticides and products for the control of rats or mice.

## Significant health risk

Biocidal products with a high risk to health belong to the **closed circuit**. They can be toxic, carcinogenic or harmful to reproduction. This is why these biocides are mainly reserved for professional users.

The **list of authorised biocides** can be found on the website [www.biocide.be](http://www.biocide.be). It clearly indicates which biocides belong to the closed circuit.

Many cleaning products are closed circuit biocides. Examples are chlorine tablets, disinfectant sprays or disinfectants based on alcohol or quaternary ammonium salts.



## Don't reach for dangerous products too quickly

The more you expose yourself or your employees to biocides, the greater the risk to your health. Therefore, do not buy or use more than you need. Ask yourself whether you are using the right product for your problem and whether there is no **other effective solution**. Strike the right balance between a closed circuit biocide or a free circuit biocide, on the one hand, or any other method of control that is less harmful to yourself, your employees or the environment, on the other. Alternatives can be found in the brochure 'Pesticides in your home or garden?' (available at [www.biocide.be](http://www.biocide.be)).

The use of chlorine tablets, for example, is not without risk. If the tablets come into contact with other products, toxic chlorine gas can form. Today there are safer alternatives on the market that are just as effective.

## Compulsory registration

Do you want to buy and use a closed circuit biocide? Then you are required to register online and confirm your status as a **professional user** by 31 December of each year via your account (according to the Royal Decree of 4 April 2019).

Cleaning companies often work for hospitals, food companies, large offices, etc. The rule of thumb is: both the person who buys the biocides and the person who uses them must register as a user.

## How to register online?

- Go to [www.biocide.be](http://www.biocide.be) ('closed circuit' section).
- Create a personal account.
- Register your company via the company number (= VAT number).
- Confirm your registration annually via your account.

Check the registration manual on the website to register correctly.

## Inform and protect your employees

As an employer, you have to make sure that your employees know how to handle dangerous products safely. Do they know how to recognise such products? Do they understand the information on the label? Do they take the right measures to protect themselves?

A good **training** is the starting point. Make sure your employees are aware of the dangers and risks associated with the cleaning products. Inform them about the protective measures they need to take, such as wearing the right gloves. If possible, provide them with an **information sheet or safety card** on which they can find the information quickly and easily.

Make sure that sufficient **protective equipment** is always available, such as gloves and safety goggles. All information about this can be found in the authorisation act. Ultimately, it is your job as an employer to supervise the correct and safe use of hazardous products in the workplace.

You can download this general information sheet from the website [www.biocide.be](http://www.biocide.be).



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**BIOCIDES?**  
I use them with the necessary caution

## More information? Questions?

Go to [www.biocide.be](http://www.biocide.be) or contact the helpdesk at [www.helpdeskbiocides.be](http://www.helpdeskbiocides.be).