



How do you deal with hazardous products in the workplace?


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


- Identify all hazardous biocidal products, e.g. via the label.
- Collect information about the proper use of these biocides, for example, via the authorisation act, the possible Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) or the Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
- Identify the risks associated to hazardous biocidal products.
- Take appropriate measures to reduce these risks. Provide, for example, protective clothing. All information about proper personal protective equipment is to be found in the authorisation act (see section 8).


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.

Label

Danger SAMPLE LABEL **1L**

1  Irritating/harmful

 Caustic/corrosive

 Dangerous for the environment

PRODUCT NAME

2 Causes serious eye damage.
Harmful if inhaled.
In case of contact with skin or eyes: rinse with water.

3 If inhaled: get some fresh air and consult a physician.

The label contains the most important information about the hazards and risks of the product.

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

The complete product information is to be found on the **Safety Data Sheet**. Request this from your supplier.

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Biocides for wood preservation

What do you need to know as a professional user?

www.biocide.be

 federal public service
**HEALTH,
FOOD CHAIN SAFETY
AND ENVIRONMENT**

.be





Compulsory registration

Do you want to buy or use a closed-circuit biocide? Then you are required to register online as a **professional user** (according to the Royal Decree of 4 April 2019).

How to register online?

- Go to www.biocide.be.
- Create a personal account.
- Register your company via the company number (= VAT number).

Check the manual on the website to register correctly.

Preserved wood: various applications

Wood is classified into five usage categories. The higher the usage category, the greater the risk of environmental degradation (e.g. by fungi or wood rot). If the wood is not naturally durable enough for the desired application, it can be treated with a biocide.

The two most common methods of impregnating wood are to immerse the wood in a bath of preservatives or to vacuum the wood in an autoclave (or pressure vessel) and then press the preservative into the wood under pressure. Impregnating in autoclaves is often done with wood from usage categories III and IV. Immersion is often used for wood from the lower usage categories, where the risk of damage by moisture, fungi or insects is smaller.

What are biocides?

Biocides are **pesticides** that are used to deter, render harmless or destroy unwanted organisms. Examples include wood preservatives, disinfectants, insecticides and mouse or rat poisons. Together with plant protection products, biocides fall under the category of pesticides.

Significant health risk

Biocides with a significant health risk belong to the **closed circuit**. They can be toxic, carcinogenic or harmful to reproduction. This is why these biocides are primarily restricted to professional users.

The list of **authorised biocidal products** is to be found on the website www.biocide.be. It clearly indicates which biocidal products belong to the closed circuit.

Companies active in wood preservation work with closed-circuit biocides to protect wood against organisms that can destroy or damage it, such as fungi and insects. Examples include copper-containing impregnating agents or pyrethrin- or triazoles-based preservatives.

Inform and protect your employees

- Inform your employees about the proper usage and dosage of the products. Do they know how to recognise hazardous biocides? Do they understand the information on the label and in the instructions for use? Do they take the right measures to protect themselves?
- Proper **training** is the starting point.
- Make sure your employees are aware of the hazards and risks pertaining to hazardous biocides.
- Inform them about the protective measures they need to take and ensure that sufficient **protective equipment** is always available, such as protective clothing, safety shoes, safety goggles and chemical-resistant gloves (type B).
- Also provide them with an **information sheet or safety card** on which they can find the information quickly and easily.

After all, 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.

Biocides?
I use them with the necessary caution

More information? Questions?
Go to www.biocide.be or contact the helpdesk at www.helpdeskbiocides.be.