

# Recommendation on the use of MIT for the preservation of detergents and maintenance products

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## Recommendation

In the spirit of product stewardship, A.I.S.E. recommends to limit the use of methylisothiazolinone (MIT) for the preservation of household detergents and maintenance products at levels equal to or lower than 100 ppm for all product categories.

In addition, for products that are used undiluted, it is recommended to include a warning statement on product labels, as an additional precautionary measure: 'rinse hands after use' (or equivalent).

**It is suggested to companies to implement this recommendation within 2 years.**

## Background

Concerns have been raised by dermatologists, echoed by media, on the use of MIT as an in-can preservative for products with skin contact, due to the skin sensitising properties of the substance. An increase in prevalence of allergic contact dermatitis has been reported as a result of a more widespread use of MIT.

This raises the question of whether current uses of MIT for the preservation of (liquid) household and maintenance products can be regarded as safe regarding sensitisation risk. It is worth noting that the general opinion from dermatologists is that household products are not a major cause of induction of sensitisation based on clinical experience.

## Quantitative Risk Assessment for Detergents and Maintenance Products

In cooperation with MIT suppliers, experts from A.I.S.E. have conducted a Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) for skin sensitisation, to assess the risk of induction of skin sensitisation under normal consumer exposure conditions. Risk assessment calculations were made for a series of A.I.S.E. household care products, assuming MIT concentrations of 100 ppm (as representative product use levels), and 250 ppm (as exceptional 'worst case').

**The QRA predicts that MIT use concentrations of 100 ppm or lower in the majority of household care products is unlikely to induce skin sensitisation in consumers.**

Conversely, in exceptional cases where levels of 250 ppm may be used, the risk of induction of sensitisation cannot be excluded for products with direct skin contact on the basis of (conservative) assumptions made.

Furthermore, the aggregation of exposure for household care products containing less than 100 ppm which are typically diluted prior to use shows the risk of skin sensitisation remains low. If a consumer is exposed to undiluted product with MIT in addition to MIT from other sources, the risk of induction can increase, possibly become unsafe.