

Assortment Guidelines

Chapter

[...]

III. Natural products

3. Detergents and other washing and cleaning agents



Certified ecological detergents and other cleaning agents (abbreviated as WPR in German) protect the environment while showing good cleaning performance and (skin) compatibility. The use of plant raw materials, preferably from certified organic cultivation, the exclusion of both environmentally controversial ingredients (e.g. microplastics, phosphonates and halogen compounds such as chlorine) and harmful processes such as genetic engineering or testing on animal make ecological WPRs an important contribution to environmental and groundwater protection. Petrochemical ingredients have been almost completely phased out in certified ecological WPRs.

For ecological WPRs there are currently no concrete legal requirements. The legal provisions protecting against consumer deception and ensuring fair competition apply. In addition, private label standards define the permissible ingredients and manufacturing processes, how compliance is audited and how these are identified on the product.

As well as the above criteria, certified ecological WPRs for use in private households meet at least the following additional criteria:

- **Biodegradability:** All organic chemical substances used in the product must be readily biodegradable under defined conditions. Substances such as silicones or paraffins which are hard to biodegrade are therefore not used.
- **Ingredients from certified organic farming:** In order to promote organic farming, organically grown ingredients are used wherever feasible to do so.
- **Full declaration and dosage instructions:** In addition to statutory requirements, all ingredients (even those less than 0.2%) are indicated on the product. Clear and understandable dosage instructions are found on every product, helping the consumer to use the product as sparingly as possible.

These and many other criteria are regulated in detail in the following standards, which are currently recognized as part of the Assortment Guidelines (German: Sortimentsrichtlinien, abbreviated as SRL in German) for ecological WPR, and are detailed there in full. The standards are continuously under development by the respective standard provider.

To comply with the SRL, a product must comply with one of the following standards and be inspected and certified by independent certifiers.

- ABG: Austria Bio Garantie
- Ecogarantie
- NCP: Nature Care Product



Identification code:

As of January 2019, only products bearing one of these labels will have the identification code **WP** for certified ecological WPR.

A **transitional regulation** for WPRs corresponding to Ecocert is attached.

Attachment:

As of December 2018. You can always find the current German version of all attachments online:

<http://n-bnn.de/sortimentsrichtlinien>

Currently valid transitional regulation for the SRL

[...]

To Chapter III. 3. Detergents and other washing and cleaning agents

a) Transitional standard tolerated until the end of 2022

In addition to the recognized ecological WPR standards (see Chapter III.3), WPRs with Ecocert certification may be carried in organic food retail outlets as an interim solution if they fulfil specific criteria:

Ecocert and Ecocert with organic raw materials



Within the framework of the SRL, the criteria of these standards define which minimum criteria ecological WPRs have to meet today, but at the same time show potential for development in comparison to the recognized standards (in Chapter III.3.).

The SRL promotes product innovation in terms of people and the environment by demanding that, **by the end of 2022**, those criteria listed in Chapter III. 3. be fully integrated into this transitionally tolerated standard.

Conditions for the temporary acceptance of WPRs certified to the Ecocert label (expiring at the end of 2022):

- **Exclusion of genetic engineering in the production of enzymes**

If enzymes are used in Ecocert certified products, the manufacturer must supply assurance that they were produced at all process stages without genetic engineering procedures (analogous to the requirements of the EU Organic Regulation). This must also be documented by a corresponding declaration on the packaging.

- **Exclusion of petrochemical ingredients:**

Ecocert accepts several ingredients of (partial) petrochemical origin and is required to report which further development steps were implemented to replace these (partial) petrochemical ingredients by 30th June each year.

Identification code:

Products bearing the Ecocert label and meeting the additional GMO-free requirements will be assigned the abbreviation **S#** for transitionally ecologically certified WPRs from 1.1.2019.

Goods that do not carry any of the four labels or that do not fully meet the requirements for the exclusion of genetic engineering are given the abbreviation **##** (= conventional / uncertified product).