

## Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 on Biocidal products (BPR)

The purpose of this Regulation is to improve the functioning of the internal market through the harmonisation of the rules on the making available on the market and the use of biocidal products, whilst ensuring a high level of protection of both human and animal health and the environment. The provisions of this Regulation are underpinned by the precautionary principle, the aim of which is to safeguard the health of humans, the health of animals and the environment. Particular attention shall be paid to the protection of vulnerable groups.

This Regulation lays down rules for:

- the establishment at Union level of a list of active substances which may be used in biocidal products;
- the authorisation of biocidal products;
- the mutual recognition of authorisations within the Union;
- the making available on the market and the use of biocidal products within one or more Member States or the Union;
- the placing on the market of treated articles.

In order to be allowed to be sold in the EU, all biocidal products require a permit. The **active substances** that they contain must be approved or included into Annex I of the regulation.

The approval by the Biocidal Products Committee (BPC) of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) may not be granted if the substances are:

- carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction;
- endocrine disruptors;
- persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic; or
- very persistent and very bioaccumulative.

In case the benefits outweigh the risks, exemptions are possible.

- The approval of an active substance is granted for a period not exceeding 10 years.

Once an active substance is approved, companies must apply for permission to place their **products** on the market by either requesting EU authorisation from ECHA or national authorization if the product is to be sold in a single Member State.

Examples for biocidal products: household disinfectants, insecticides and other chemicals used to suppress pests (parasites, fungi, bacteria, etc.) or to protect materials.

The regulation covers articles that have been treated with or incorporate a biocidal product as well. **Treated articles** can only be treated with active substances that have been approved in the EU and must be labelled following specific rules.