

Appendix 4 Performance test (O14)

This document describes the framework for a laboratory test for industrial cleaning and degreasing agents. Other tests can be used if they are well described and documented and approved by Nordic Ecolabelling.

The purpose of the laboratory test is to show whether the test product is better or as good at cleaning / degreasing as a reference product * and better than water, and that the test product does harm the surfaces that it aims to make clean (plastic, metal, concrete).

** With reference product is meant a product that is already established on the market and has the same uses as the product to be tested.*

Industrial cleaning and degreasing agent must meet the requirements of effectiveness test according to the specifications in this appendix.

Laboratory Test

Product, reference product and water are to be tested with the same test method, temperature and soil type that are relevant for product.

The test shall be conducted by at least 5 parallels of the test product, reference product (established product on the market) and water.

The test should show that the test product is better or as good as the reference product and better than water

Reference Product

Test product and reference product shall be tested by the same method. Both products should be having the same function and uses. Reference product should be a product that is established on the market. Reference product must have the same uses as the product to be tested.

Dosage

The test shall be conducted at the lowest recommended dosage for normal soil. This applies to both test product and reference product.

Dirt

The dirt used should be relevant to the product's intended area of use.

Surfaces

The surfaces on which the products are tested must be relevant to the area of use in respect of which the product is marketed

Performing the test

The same number of repetitions shall be performed for the test product, reference product and water (at least 5 per product). Relevant contamination is applied to the test surface before test product, reference product and water is applied.

Evaluated according to specified duration according to option 1) or 2) specified under "Duration of the test."

Duration of the test

Duration of the test should be selected from one of the alternatives below:

1. Time stated by the manufacturer in relation to the dosage. After the time recommended by manufacturer the product's effectiveness is assessed.

or

2. The effect of the products is assessed on an ongoing basis (for instance after 1 min, 3 min, 5 min, 7 min and so on) and it should be recorded whether the test product is better or as good as the reference product during the whole test. When the test product or reference product exhibits a desired effect, the assessment and time (number of minutes) is recorded.

Assessment of product

After performing the test the effect of the test product should be assessed against the reference product and water. The assessment can be based on visual or instrumental (reflection/gravimetric) measurement.

If the test product proves not to be as good as the reference product after the scheduled assessment period (for example after x number of minutes), the product shall be considered to be "less good than the reference product" and thus not satisfactory.

If another evaluation method is more relevant for the product than continuous evaluation or assessment after a specific duration it may be used. It should be explained why the assessment method is more appropriate, and the method shall be described clearly.

Requirements for laboratory by efficiency test

The laboratory must meet the general requirements in accordance with standard EN ISO 17025 or be an officially GLP-approved analysis laboratory.

The applicant's analysis or measurement laboratory may be approved to conduct analyses and measurements if:

- The manufacturer has a quality system incorporating sampling and analyses, and which is certified in accordance with ISO 9001 or ISO 9002
- Test method for effectiveness test is included in the quality system.
- The samples must be de-identified for the test laboratory
- The ecolabelling organisation must have access to all data of the effectiveness test

Tables to be filled in connection with the laboratory test:**Information about the product**

Full name of the product:	
Manufacturer:	
Area of application:	
Product type:	
Water-based degreasers (surfaces, metal/engine cleaning)	<input type="checkbox"/>
CIP, component cleaning agents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-painting cleaners, façade cleaners	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solvent-based products (Ready-to-use, RTU)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Offshore	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Test conditions

Description of the test conditions used during testing of the efficacy of the product.

Test method:	<input type="checkbox"/> As described in this appendix. <input type="checkbox"/> Other method. Specify:
Performing the test:	Describe how the test is performed:
Reference product:	
- Name:	
- Area of use:	
- Lowest recommended use:	
- Time:	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended by producer: _____ minutes <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
Test product:	
- Area of use:	
- Lowest recommended use:	
- Time:	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended by producer: _____ minutes <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
Soil (description):	
Test surface:	

Test results - assessment of project effectiveness

Description of how the product's effectiveness is evaluated.

Assessment method:	<input type="checkbox"/> As described in this appendix. <input type="checkbox"/> Other method. Specify:
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	Motivation for using other method than the one described in this appendix:
Time:	Product was assessed after: <input type="checkbox"/> _____ minutes (time recommended by manufacturer) <input type="checkbox"/> _____ minutes (number of minutes when test or reference product exhibit the desired effect).

Is the test product considered to be more effective than water at all reviews?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Assessment - visual:					
Conducted tests (parallels):	1	2	3	4	5
Not satisfactory (not as good as the reference product)					
Satisfactory (as good as the reference product)					
Very satisfactory (better than the reference product)					
Other comments to the assessment of the product:					

Assessment according to another method (specified above):
Assessment of the test product:
<input type="checkbox"/> Not satisfactory (not as good as the reference product)
<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory (as good as the reference product)
<input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfactory (better than the reference product)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other assessment – specify:

Information on the test laboratory

Company:	
Address:	
Contact person:	Title:
Phone number:	Email:
Place and date:	Signature: