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Global Product Safety Department

Dear Customer,

Subject: Biodegradability Profile of Diversey Product

Thank you for your interest in Diversey Inc. products. This letter is in response to your recent inquiry regarding the biodegradability of Diversey product.

Biodegradation is the breakdown of organic[1] materials into simpler substances, such as carbon dioxide, water and ammonia, by the action of microorganisms present in wastewater treatment plants. Biodegradation does not apply to inorganic materials because they normally disperse and degrade into stable compounds or their elemental ions.

Diversey uses the most stringent definition of biodegradability, ready biodegradability. Ready biodegradability, also known as readily, is defined by the Organization for Economic and Cooperative Development (OECD)[2]. The OECD test guideline uses laboratory tests to measure the degree and the rate of biodegradation over a set time frame (28 days most commonly). A ready biodegradable material will biodegrade rapidly in the environment and, when discharged as wastewater constituents, will be effectively broken down during wastewater treatment. However, failure of a material to pass the OECD ready biodegradability criteria does not mean that the material will not biodegrade in the environment or in the waste stream if given sufficient time and circumstances.

Customer purchasing requirements, eco-labeling schemes (e.g. Green Seal, EU Flower, etc.) and local or regional legislation may require a product meet specific biodegradation requirements. In the absence of OECD study results, Diversey uses the data on individual ingredients to estimate the biodegradability profile of a product. The table in the appendix provides the as-used weight percentage of readily biodegradable and inorganic materials of the requested product(s). Please note, the major transformation products that result from the biodegradation of the organic materials are not anticipated to be more acutely toxic than the parent compound when the product is used as intended.

Thank you for choosing Diversey products.

Sincerely,

Katerina V Dimitrova
Global Environmental Toxicologist
Global Product Safety, Global Regulatory Affairs T&I

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[1] The term organic refers to a compound or molecule that contains a carbon-carbon bond or a carbon-hydrogen bond, regardless of the carbon source (plant, animal or petroleum derived)

[2] Guidelines for Testing of Chemicals. Ready Biodegradability. Test Guideline 301. Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development. Paris, France. 1992.