

## **EU Ecolabel for hard surface cleaners (EU) 2017/1217 Implementation of the performance test for applications at RAL gGmbH (CB Deutschland)**

### **1. Test scope**

The product must be fit for use and meet the requirements of the consumer.

For **all-purpose cleaners**, the effective removal of grease must be verified.

For **kitchen cleaners**, the effective removal of grease must be verified. If the information provided on the label additionally claims that the product removes lime soaps and limescale, the corresponding effect must be verified.

For window cleaners, a streak-free finish and slight grease removal must be verified.

For **bathroom cleaners**, the removal of lime soaps and limescale must be verified.

For **acidic toilet cleaners**, the removal of limescale deposits must be verified.

The effectiveness of the products shall be tested using

- a suitable and verifiable laboratory test or
- a suitable and verifiable consumer test.

In both cases, the completion and documentation of the test are subject to concrete conditions that are explained in the following regulatory framework: "Framework for testing performance of hard surface cleaning products". The laboratory examinations are specified as follows:

### **2. Reference products**

The reference product used shall be a product that ranks amongst the 4 leading products on the market in Germany. The selected product must be justified (e.g. with a GFK report). The following reference products can be used **without** the need for justification for **non-commercial/industrial** products:

For removal of grease by **all-purpose cleaners**:

- Der General "Bergfrühling" (other fragrances permitted)
- Meister Proper "Allzweckreiniger"
- denkmit "Allzweckreiniger"
- Ajax "Frischeduft" (other fragrances permitted)

For removal of grease by **"neutral cleaners"**:

- Frosch Neutralreiniger
- Der General sensitiv "Aloe Vera" (other fragrances permitted)

For removal of grease by **kitchen cleaners**:

- Der General "Küchenkraft"
- Meister Proper "Express Power Fettschmutzreiniger"

For liquid **scouring cream** and **solid scouring pastes**:

- Viss Scheuermilch
- Frosch Scheuermilch

For solid products (pastes), the correct ratio of paste/water shall be determined based on the information provided on the label and a corresponding mixture is then tested in comparison to this scouring cream.

**For window cleaners:**

- Sidolin "Streifenfrei"
- Ajax Glasreiniger

For **commercial/industrial all-purpose cleaners, kitchen cleaners or window cleaners**, a different reference product can also be used as an alternative where the scope of application, the dilution and the pH value according to the information provided on the label is as identical as possible. Examples:

A "gentle-acting floor cleaner" compared to a "gentle-acting floor cleaner"

A "surfactant-free maintenance cleaner" compared to a "surfactant-free maintenance cleaner"

The selection of the relevant market-leading product is to be justified (e.g. with GFK figures). Products with the same scope of application from the following companies can be used as a reference product **without** the need for justification:

- BUZIL-WERK Wagner GmbH & Co
- Diversey
- DR.SCHNELL GmbH & Co. KGaA
- Ecolab Deutschland GmbH
- Johannes Kiehl KG
- tana-Chemie GmbH

For **acidic toilet cleaners**, the cleaning effect must correspond at least to that achieved by the no-name reference product, which is described in the following IKW performance test "Recommendation for the quality assessment of acidic toilet cleaners" (SÖFW Journal, 126th Year, 11, P. 50-56, 2000).

For **bathroom cleaners**, the cleaning effect must correspond at least to that achieved by the no-name reference product listed in table 1 in the "Framework for testing performance of hard surface cleaning products".

### **3. Test conditions (laboratory tests):**

Ready-to-use products are tested in their ready-to-use condition.

Undiluted products should be tested in a diluted state, using the highest recommended dilution for normal soil removal. Recommended dilutions for heavy soiling or minor soiling are not tested.

For all-purpose cleaners, if the following test of the removal of grease does not provide sufficient information on the comparative cleaning performance (as both test product and reference product do not show adequate performance), the test should be carried out in the undiluted state.

For the laboratory tests, the removal of grease by **all-purpose cleaners** is to be tested based on the "Recommendation for the Quality Assessment of the Product Performance of All-Purpose Cleaners 2014 (SÖFW Journal | 141 | 4-2015)". Performance tests carried out in accordance with the "Qualitätsnormen für Fußbodenpflege- und reinigungsmittel" (SÖFW | 371 | 10-1986); ("IPP-Gardner Test") (Quality standards for floor care and cleaning products) will also be accepted.

In order to verify a sufficient level of quality in the test to assess the fitness for use of all-purpose cleaners (effective removal of grease), the testing laboratory shall document the required number of strokes in the results section of the test report in accordance with the IKW "Recommendation for the Quality Assessment of the Product Performance of All-Purpose Cleaners 2014 (SÖFW Journal | 141 | 4-2015)" using the IKW test soil with the IKW reference cleaner (dosage: 5 ml undiluted) for achieving cleaning value 2:

Reference number of strokes: The IKW reference cleaner is set as standard to at least 8 strokes (ideally 10-25 strokes) for cleaning value 2.

For the laboratory tests, the removal of grease by **kitchen cleaners** is to be tested based on the "IKW Recommendation on for the Quality Assessment of the Product Performance of Degreasing Power Cleaners (2017). (SÖFW Journal 7|8 2018)".

Laboratory tests for limescale removal by **acidic toilet cleaners** must follow the "Recommendation for the Quality Assessment of Acidic Toilet Cleaners (June 1999)".

Laboratory tests for limescale removal by **bathroom cleaners and kitchen cleaners (if claimed on the label)** must follow the "Recommendation for the Quality Assessment of Bathroom Cleaners (SÖFW Journal | 129 | 3-2003), Section 3.1.2". For limescale removal for undiluted products, it is sufficient if the test product achieves the cleaning performance of the reference product either vertically or horizontally. The removal of lime soap must be tested according to the "Recommendation for the Quality Assessment of Bathroom Cleaners (SÖFW Journal | 129 | 3-2003), section 3.2".

Laboratory tests for the streak-free finish and the slight removal of grease by **window cleaners** must follow the IKW test for window cleaners (not yet published). Until publication, test laboratory-internal test regulations can be used.

**Summary:**

Cleaner	Required fitness for use	Test method	Dilution test product	Reference product
All-purpose cleaner, undiluted	Grease removal	in (1)	diluted (2)	see above
All-purpose cleaner, RTU	Grease removal	in (1)	undiluted	see above
Kitchen cleaner, undiluted	Grease removal	in (4)	undiluted	see above
Kitchen cleaner, RTU	Grease removal	in (4)	undiluted	see above
Window cleaner undiluted	Streak-free finish	in (5)	diluted	see above
	Slight removal of grease	in (5)		
Window cleaner, RTU	Streak-free finish	in (5)	undiluted	see above
	Slight grease removal	in (5)		
Acidic toilet cleaner	Ability to remove limescale	IKW test in (6); Limescale removal index $\geq 1.0$	undiluted	Standard toilet cleaner in (6)
Bathroom cleaner RTU; Kitchen cleaner, RTU (10)	Ability to remove limescale	IKW test in (7), section 3.1.2	undiluted	in (9)
	Lime soap removal	IKW test in (7)	undiluted	in (9)
Bathroom cleaner, undiluted	Ability to remove limescale	IKW test in (7), section 3.1.2. (8)	diluted	in (9)
	Lime soap removal	IKW test in (7)	diluted	in (9)

(1): Recommendation for the Quality Assessment of the Product Performance of All-Purpose Cleaners (SÖFW Journal | 141 | 4-2015), a performance test carried out in accordance with the "Qualitätsnormen für Fußbodenpflege- und reinigungsmittel" (SÖFW | 371 | 10-1986); ("IPP-Gardner Test") (Quality standards for floor care and cleaning products) will also be accepted

(2): Only if sufficient comparative cleaning performance detectable, otherwise undiluted.

(3): After 7 and 14 days, the test product must achieve at least the rating 2.

(4): IKW Recommendation on for the Quality Assessment of the Product Performance of Degreasing Power Cleaners (2017). (SÖFW Journal 7|8 2018)

(5): IKW test, not yet published. Until publication: Testing laboratory-internal test methods

(6): Recommendations for the quality assessment of acidic toilet cleaners (June 1999)

(7): Recommendation for the Quality Assessment of Bathroom Cleaners (SÖFW-Journal | 129 | 3-2003)

(8): Test product must be better than reference product vertically or horizontally

(9): see table 1 in the "Framework for testing performance of hard surface cleaning products"

(10): only if claimed on the label

**Supplement to the performance test for bathroom cleaners to verify the product's ability to remove limescale:**

(For applications for the EU Ecolabel according to (EU) 2017/1217 and for the Blue Angel according to DE-UZ194, Edition 2018)

- 1) RTU bathroom cleaners that are exclusively used in undiluted form must verify their ability to remove limescale in comparison to the reference product (without Rheozan) (horizontally and vertically) OR verify their ability to remove limescale in comparison to the reference product (with Rheozan) (horizontally and vertically)
- 2) Dilutable bathroom cleaners (this also includes e.g. vinegar-based cleaners) that are exclusively used in diluted form are tested in a diluted state. (However, the reference product is not diluted!). The product's ability to remove limescale must be verified horizontally or vertically in comparison to the reference product (without Rheozan).
- 3) In the case of bathroom cleaners (this also includes e.g. vinegar-based cleaners) that can be used in undiluted and diluted form, the test conditions are dependent on the precise instructions provided on the product label. If the product should be applied in undiluted form for normally (or normally to heavily) soiled surfaces and in diluted form for lightly soiled surfaces, the test must be carried out using the undiluted product. The test must be carried out using the undiluted product on one surface in accordance with section "3.1.3 bathroom cleaner concentrates" from the "Recommendation for the Quality Assessment of Bathroom Cleaners (SÖFW Journal | 129 | 3-2003)". A reference product with or without Rheozan can be used. If the product should only be applied in undiluted form for stubborn/heavily soiled surfaces and in diluted form for normally soiled surfaces, the test must be carried out using the diluted product in accordance with Point 2). Tests carried out in accordance with Point 1) will also be recognised.

**Summary:**

	Form of application for <b>normally</b> soiled surfaces according to the label	Reference product	Test	Notes
RTU bathroom cleaner (exclusively)  <b>Application as sanitary cleaner, RTU</b>	RTU	See Table 1 in "Framework for testing performance of hard surface cleaning products" <b>with Rheozan or without Rheozan</b>	IKW test in (7), section 3.1.2 (horizontally and vertically)	<b>New:</b> It is now possible to use a reference product with or without Rheozan. The reference product must be identical for both the horizontal and vertical test.
Bathroom cleaner, undiluted (exclusively)  <b>Application as Sanitary cleaner, undiluted</b>	Diluted	See Table 1 in "Framework for testing performance of hard surface cleaning products" <b>without Rheozan</b>	IKW test in (7), section 3.1.2 (horizontally <b>or</b> vertically)	The reference product is <b>not</b> diluted.
Bathroom cleaner, undiluted and in RTU form  <b>Application as Sanitary cleaner, undiluted</b>	Diluted	See Table 1 in "Framework for testing performance of hard surface cleaning products" <b>without Rheozan</b>	IKW test in (7), section 3.1.2 (horizontally <b>or</b> vertically)	The reference product is <b>not</b> diluted.
Bathroom cleaner, undiluted and in RTU form  <b>Application as sanitary cleaner, RTU</b>	RTU	See Table 1 in "Framework for testing performance of hard surface cleaning products" <b>with Rheozan or without Rheozan</b>	IKW test in (7), section 3.1.2 (horizontally and vertically) <b>OR</b> IKW test in (7), section 3.1.3 on one surface	<b>New:</b> It is now possible to use a reference product with or without Rheozan. The reference product must be identical for both the horizontal and vertical test. <b>New:</b> A test according to section 3.1.3 is also possible.