

To our partners within the chemical, detergent and cosmetic sectors concerning the update-project of the European Flower and Nordic Swan DID-list.

Dear colleague,

Thank you very much for taking interest in our work, and especially in the ecolabel DID-list. As the previous project-leader for developing the DID-list, I will now be in charge of the updating of the list. I therefore like to involve you in this work, and I would like to give you some background-information on this work.

The DID-list was developed as a co-operation project between the European Flower Ecolabel and the Nordic Swan label. The list is based on the old Nordic Chemical list and the old European DID-list. These lists were updated with recent testresults during our work in 2002-2004, where we were able to extend the background database with a lot of new data. The number of substances was also increased to a great extent. The detergent industry and the chemical producers participated in the work, and we are happy to say that we received a lot of data from the European detergent organisation AISE as well as the chemical producers CEFIC/CESIO.

During this work, a lot of emphasis was put into the scientific basis of the new DID-list. All degradation factors and toxicity factors are therefore based on the guideline document for the Risk assessment directive. This was suggested by two well-known toxicologists, (Torben Madsen from Denmark and Torsten Källqvist from Norway) and discussed extensively at the ad hoc working group meetings where all interested parties were invited and took part. The industry representatives, the European Commission and experts from the Member States agreed to this way to present data on toxicity and degradability. The data (old test results and new ones) on each chemical on the list, was also evaluated by the toxicologists together with data from other sources in the litterature, open studies, the HERA-project etc, and strict quality requirements was set in order to accept test-results for the database.

All participating parties agreed to the principles and the scientific justification of the list, but there might still be elements of the DID-list that could be improved. Due to insufficient data available, there are always a potential for improvement on some entries on the list, and the Nordic Swan together with the European Flower will therefore update some values for selected compounds if new data are made available to us. We will possibly also add some new compounds to the list but we will not at this stage perform a complete revision of the list reviewing the principles. The implementation of the new detergent directive also indicate that more chemicals are being tested now.

We are then very pleased that both AISE and CEFIC have signalised that they would like to contribute also this time. We invite you to submit data, which can be sent to Marianne B. Eskeland in Ecolabelling Norway. New data collected will be

evaluated together with the old data in our database, and the toxicologists will use the same strict procedure for determining the new entry on the DID-list. Enclosed to this mail you will find the quality guidelines for acceptance of test results. Ecolabelling Norway guarantees for confidential treatment of all data submitted that are not from open sources.

Finally, the values listed in the DID-list shall be used by all applicants for the Flower and the Nordic Swan. This provides equal assessment of all applicants, and ensures the scientific approach to our work. The only exceptions being perfumes and dyes, where the applicant may send in test-reports on the specific mix used. If information in an application leads to an update of an entry on the list (by active co-operation with the applicant), this new value shall apply for the application in question and for all future applications containing this substance.

We are looking forward to co-operate with you, and we do hope you may provide new data to the DID-list.

With best regards
Marianne B. Eskeland

marianne.b.eskeland@ecolabel.no

Ecolabelling Norway
Tordenskiolds gate 6B
0160 Oslo

Tel: +47 24144609
Fax: +47 24144601