

## Customer information on limiting phosphor levels in dishwasher detergents

With EU regulation no. 259/2012<sup>1</sup> the European Union introduced an upper limit for the use of phosphates and other phosphorus compounds in automatic dishwasher detergents destined for consumers.

A limit of 0.3g of phosphor per standard dishwashing cycle (twelve standard place settings) is going to apply as of **January 1, 2017**. That means that the use of small quantities of phosphor, for example in the form of phosphonates, continues to be permitted.

The deadline refers to the date **when the goods are first available in the market place**. Hence, producers like us need to comply with the new limit value as of January 1, 2017. As far as the retail trade is concerned however there is no deadline by which the goods need to be sold. Retailers can therefore continue to sell the products without restrictions.

Over the last few years, we have spent a great deal of time and effort on developing high-quality phosphate-free alternatives, which we can obviously offer straight away. Switching to phosphate-free recipes is also associated with changes to the layout of the packaging. We therefore propose to start planning no later than the third quarter of 2016 to ensure a smooth transition.

As is currently the case, we will continue to offer our customers standard tabs (requiring the addition of salt and rinsing aids) as well as multifunctional tabs in various qualities (from price-entry level to premium qualities) in various color combinations.

Please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be happy to assist and advise you in any way we can.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32012R0259&from=DE>