



April 2025

Biocidal Products

The **Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) Regulation** is the European Regulation (Regulation 528/2012) which sets out the framework for the registration, sale, supply and use of biocidal products. This Regulation was enacted into Irish Law by **Statutory Instrument No. 427 of 2013**.

The **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine** are the Competent Authority for Biocides in Ireland.

A biocidal product (or biocide) can be a pesticide or an antimicrobial containing or generating an active substance(s) that is used to prevent or control various types of harmful or unwanted organisms. Such products include disinfectants, preservatives, insect repellents, rodenticides and insecticides. Biocides control the intended target organism by a chemical or biological action. Biocides can be used by professionals and members of the public in a wide spectrum of use areas that are classified into product-types. Biocidal products are regulated in order to minimise any unacceptable risks for people, non-target animals and the environment. The control of the marketing, sale and use of the products by DAFM is necessary to ensure only registered biocidal products are made available on the market.

There are twenty-two categories of biocidal products, which are grouped into four main areas: **Disinfectants, Preservatives, Pest Control and Other Biocidal Products**. See [Product-types - ECHA \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2012/528/oj).

What part of the BPR applies to you?

In the BPR, the definitions applicable to you are:

*“(i) ‘**making available on the market**’ means any supply of a biocidal product or of a treated article for distribution or use in the course of a commercial activity, whether in return for payment or free of charge;*

*(j) ‘**placing on the market**’ means the first making available on the market of a biocidal product or of a treated article;*

*(k) ‘**use**’ means all operations carried out with a biocidal product, including storage, handling, mixing and application, except any such operation carried out with a view to exporting the biocidal product or the treated article outside the Union;*

*(y) ‘**advertisement**’ means a means of promoting the sale or use of biocidal products by printed, electronic or other media;”*

In order **to distribute, sell or advertise** any biocidal products, Irish legislation requires that the biocidal products are entered in the “Biocidal Products Register”. The Register is divided between what are referred to as **“Notified”** products and **“Authorised”** products.

Article 72 of the BPR specifies the legal requirements around Advertising of biocidal products, this includes websites, home delivery apps, print etc.

Article 72 Advertising

‘ 1. Any advertisement for biocidal products shall, in addition to complying with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008, include the sentences ‘Use biocides safely. Always read the label and product information before use.’. The sentences shall be clearly distinguishable and legible in relation to the whole advertisement.

2. Advertisers may replace the word ‘biocides’ in the prescribed sentences with a clear reference to the product-type being advertised.

3. Advertisements for biocidal products shall not refer to the product in a manner which is misleading in respect of the risks from the product to human health, animal health or the environment or its efficacy. In any case, the advertising of a biocidal product shall not mention ‘low-risk biocidal product’, ‘non-toxic’, ‘harmless’, ‘natural’, ‘environmentally friendly’, ‘animal friendly’ or any similar indication.’

You can check the registers of products online at:

<http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/register/biocidalproductregisters/>

- ❖ **A Notified Product** will have a **“PCS”** number which is a unique identifier for each notified product where the active substance/PT combination is being supported under the EU review of existing biocidal active substances.
- ❖ **An Authorised Product** will have an **“IE/BPA” or “EU”** number which is a unique identifier for each authorised product where the active/PT combination is approved at EU level and the product is evaluated and authorised for sale and use in Ireland.
- ❖ The PCS or IE/BPA or EU numbers **will be printed on the product label.**
- ❖ **If the product label does not contain any of these number formats (PCS, IE/BPA or EU number) you must not place the product on the market, make the product available on the market or advertise the products. It is illegal to do so.**

- ❖ When checking the status of product on either Register, if the status says “**Revoked**”, this means DAFM has withdrawn the prior notification/approval for that product. You will need to check if the revoked product has a period of grace applied. Details in relation to revocation and sell out of products are as follows:
- ❖ **Product Revoke Date** = Date which product(s) are revoked by DAFM and the last date on which the authorisation holder may place product on the Irish market.
- ❖ **Sell Out Date of Revoked Products** = Shall not exceed 180 days for the making available on the market existing stocks of product by those other than the authorisation holder.
- ❖ Further guidance on the product registers and details of all product types can be found at:
- ❖ [Glossary of terms and abbreviations for the biocide register.pdf \(agriculture.gov.ie\)](#)

Further information

Further information on biocides can be found on our website:

<https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/biocides/>

Any questions in relation to biocides can be sent to our helpdesk: biocides@agriculture.gov.ie