

ESC/24/07

AMFEP POSITION ON ONLINE SALES OF ENZYME PRODUCTS FOR CONSUMER USES

Enzymes have an excellent safety profile with low probability to cause adverse responses in humans. Enzymes, like other proteins, do have the intrinsic potential to act as respiratory sensitizers (Basketter et al. 2012) and are therefore classified as such in EU law.

Allergy to enzymes among consumers of enzyme-containing products has not been reported since late 1960s, and it is of utmost importance that this history of safe use remains, which should be possible if handled according to pertinent and safe standards. Isolated reported cases of enzyme allergies among consumers could lead to unwarranted limitations on the use of enzyme technology in other consumer applications.

For this reason, AMFEP strongly recommends that a thorough risk assessment regarding potential respiratory exposure is conducted for each application of enzyme use, before promoting such uses.

For online sales of enzyme products to consumers it is necessary that the consumer is made fully aware that the enzyme product they are about to buy should be used only for the specific application promoted on the website, as well in conformity with specific safety instructions. This can be done e.g. by an explanatory text and by checking a box stating that the consumer understands that the use of the enzyme product is only recommended for the use(s) mentioned on the website and has understood the [safety instructions](#).

Information on how to conduct risk assessment regarding potential respiratory exposure for an enzyme application can be found in the AMFEP "Guide to the safe handling of Industrial Enzyme Preparations", and very thorough guidance on this subject can be found in the ACI Guide "Risk Assessment Guidance for Enzyme-Containing Products".

References

1. Basketter, D., Berg, N., Broekhuizen, C., Fieldsend, M., Kirkwood, S., Kluin, C., Mathieu, S., Rodriguez, C. (2012). Enzymes in cleaning products: An overview of toxicological properties and risk assessment/management. *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology* 64, pp 117–123
2. "Guide to the safe handling of Industrial Enzyme Preparations", AMFEP, 2023, [Link](#)
3. "Risk Assessment Guidance for Enzyme-Containing Products" ACI, 2019 ([Link](#))

AMFEP c/o KELLEN

Avenue de Tervueren 188A postbox 4, 1150 Brussels
Tel +32 2 761 16 77 • VAT BE 0627.846.356