

The EU Biocidal Products Directive 98/8/EC

Costs - £20,000 per product to be 'market authorised' by the Component Authority, which in the UK is the Health and Safety Inspectorate ([HSE](#))

A cost of £10m per year to the economy ([Open Europe](#))

Talking Points

Small and Medium sized companies will be unable to incur costs

Biocidal products are components of thousands of manufactured products in the UK. The regulatory process involves multiple steps, within the member state and within an EU body, to approve a biocide for use. One example, Quatchem a British company, is expecting costs of £6.5m. Their turnover is £2m per year. ([Source](#))

Threatens to remove products from the market

Biocidal products make a whole host of household items, from disinfectants to anti-bug sprays and so forth. Making it difficult for small and medium sized firms to approve their biocidal products, or products containing biocides, will threaten to remove items from the shelves. That is until the multinationals take over production as they have the financial power to incur the costs of regulation.

Unintended consequences – a ban on rat poison

As the biocides directive would outlaw rodenticides which are toxic to humans. This would hinder pest control, pest control companies and community health. ([Source](#))

What is it?

A Directive aimed to harmonise the production and distribution of biocidal products and their component substances across the EU. It also requires a risk assessment of products to protect humans and animals. The [Health and Safety Executive](#) requires the submission and evaluation of data relating to substances' chemistry, toxicity to humans, and toxicity to the environment. It also makes sure that products are sufficiently effective against animals targeted by the products.

The regulations involved reviewing all existing biocides and will continue on a 10 yearly evaluation process to regulate biocidal products. The body that examines all biocides is the Health and Safety Executive.

Products that fall under the Directive include:

- disinfectants - for home and industrial use;
- preservatives - for manufactured and natural products;
- pest control products;
- other biocidal products, eg vertebrate control and other specialised products

The Health and Safety Executive lists product types covered in the Directive [here](#).

The registry involved two steps, first winning approval in the member state and also within the EU for mutual recognition. A revised 2009 Directive aimed to help SMEs with the burdensome regulatory cost – and difficulty – in gaining approval for biocidal products.

Third Party Opinions

The Consultancy WCA Environment has been critical of the review process of existing biocides, saying it is “cumbersome” and not proceeding to time. ([Source](#))

“We have told them (The European Parliament) a ban would create a serious public health issue far worse than the toxicity of the (rat) poison,” Paul Chambers, [NFU chemicals expert](#).