



Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative



What is the Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative?

Through the Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative (SDSI), EPA's Design for the Environment (DfE) Program will recognize environmental leaders who voluntarily commit to the use of safer surfactants. Safer surfactants are surfactants that break down quickly to non-polluting compounds and help protect aquatic life in both fresh and salt water. Nonylphenol ethoxylates, commonly referred to as NPEs, are an example of a surfactant class that does not meet the definition of a safer surfactant.

The Design for the Environment Program has identified safer alternative surfactants through partnerships with industry and environmental advocates. These safer alternatives are comparable in cost and are readily available. CleanGredients™ is an on-line resource for finding safer surfactants (visit www.CleanGredients.org).

Who is Eligible for Recognition?

EPA's DfE Program will recognize businesses engaged in the production or use of surfactants, as well as those involved in the purchase or distribution of products containing surfactants. Others, including non-profit organizations may qualify through actively encouraging the use of safer surfactants.

What is the Recognition?

There are two categories for recognition under SDSI: Champion and Partner. Champion is the highest level of recognition offered under SDSI. At this level, the participant is invited to an awards ceremony, is listed on the EPA SDSI Web site as a Champion, and may use a special logo in their literature to help explain their participation in the program.

The Partner category provides recognition of significant accomplishment towards the use of safer surfactants. Partners will be listed on the EPA SDSI Web site and may be granted recognition as Champions in the future.



How do I Apply for Recognition?

An application for recognition is available for download on DfE's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/dfe/pubs/projects/formulat/sdsi.htm>. The application includes the criteria for Champion and Partner status. Applications must be submitted no later than May 30, 2008. Awards will be presented in late 2008 in Washington, DC. If you would like more information, please contact David Difiore (difiore.david@epa.gov).