

The DISPERBYK-BF Series – Biocide-free Alternatives to Established Standard Wetting and Dispersing Additives

On October 4, 2018, the European Union (EU) agreed a re-classification of methylisothiazolinone (MIT), a common preservative for water-based products, and this was then published in the 13th ATP (Adaptation to Technical and Scientific Progress, (EU) 1480/2018). Accordingly, more stringent regulations on statutory limits and labeling requirements came into force at EU level with effect from May 1, 2020.

By this deadline at the latest, products with a MIT concentration equal to or more than 15 ppm must be labeled with a pictogram, the signal word "Warning" and hazard statement H317 ("May cause an allergic skin reaction."):

2.2 Label elements

Labeling (REGULATION (EC) No 1272/2008)

Hazard pictogram:



Signal word:

Warning

Hazard statement:

H317 May cause an allergic skin reaction.

In Europe, contents of between 1.5 ppm to below 15 ppm must be labeled with hazard statement EUH208 ("Contains Methylisothiazolinone. May produce an allergic reaction.").

In order to meet these stricter requirements on the one hand and customers' expectations of safe and unproblematic handling of BYK products on the other, BYK has formulated biocide-free alternatives for a number of its wetting and dispersing additives that have become the market standard for water-borne coatings, paints, inks, adhesives, and other formulations because of their quality. This means that the proven additives remain classification-free and can continue to be used as normal without special protective measures.

For differentiation purposes, "BF" for "biocide-free" has been appended to the names of these new additives. They otherwise have the same names as the established standard additives, which are still available. The new "BF" alternatives are the same as these standard additives in terms of their application. They are supplied in the same way and are produced on the basis of the same raw materials.

The BF Series by BYK

Market standard	Biocide-free alternative
DISPERBYK-190	DISPERBYK-190 BF
DISPERBYK-199	DISPERBYK-199 BF
DISPERBYK-2015	DISPERBYK-2015 BF

BF = biocide-free

In order to ensure proper in-can stability of the "BF" alternatives against microbial contamination, the products' ability to not contribute to microbial growth in the presence of bacteria, molds, and yeasts has been externally tested and proven. Additionally, process measures implemented in the production of the "BF" alternatives allow these products to be manufactured without the use of in-can preservatives. The product shelf life is 24 months unopened in the original packaging, stored under the conditions specified in the product documentation.

Benefits of the DISPERBYK-BF Series at a Glance

- Based on the same raw materials as the standard additives
- Offer comparable product performance
- Supplied in the same delivery form
- Meet current industry standards that restrict the use of biocides (in particular MIT)
- Available without limitation like the standard additives



BYK-Chemie GmbH
P.O. Box 10 02 45
46462 Wesel
Germany
Tel +49 281 670-0
Fax +49 281 65735

info@byk.com
www.byk.com



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This issue replaces all previous versions – Printed in Germany