

General Information on the Restrictions on the Import of Detergents Containing Nonylphenol and Nonylphenol Polyethylene Glycol Ether

Nonylphenol (NP) and nonylphenol polyethylene glycol ether (NPEO) are controlled toxic chemical substances announced in the attachment of the "Guidelines on Regulated Toxic Chemical Substances and the Management of Their Handling." They are not easily decomposed and have bioconcentration properties. Alongside their detrimental effects on rivers and marine ecosystems, these chemicals can negatively impact human health after being ingested through the food chain.

The Ministry of Environment (previously the Environmental Protection Administration) has prohibited the use of NP and NPEO in the manufacture of household detergents since 2008. In view of their environmental and health risks, there are now many alternative products available. Therefore, in line with international control regulations, a revision to the "Guidelines on Regulated Toxic Chemical Substances and the Management of Their Handling" was announced on May 13, 2025, fully prohibiting the use of NP and NPEO in the manufacture of detergents. The Ministry of Environment has formulated the "Restrictions on the Import of Detergents Containing Nonylphenol and Nonylphenol Polyethylene Glycol Ether" (hereinafter referred to as "the Announcement"), taking into consideration the environmental fate of detergents containing NP and NPEO, which pose risks to the environment and people's health, and in accordance with the authorization provisions of Article 21 of the Waste Disposal Act. These import restrictions will be implemented in two phases. Starting from December 1, 2026, the first stage will target detergents containing NP or NPEO at a concentration of more than 5% by weight. Starting from June 1, 2027, the second stage will target detergents containing NP or NPEO at a concentration of more than 0.1% by weight. Highlights of the Announcement are as follows:

- I. Definitions of the Restrictions on the Import of Detergents Containing Nonylphenol and Nonylphenol Polyethylene Glycol Ether. (Paragraph 1 of the Announcement)
- II. The Restrictions on the Import of Detergents Containing Nonylphenol and Nonylphenol Polyethylene Glycol Ether will be implemented in two phases based on concentration. (Paragraph 2 of the Announcement)
- III. Exceptions to applicability. (Paragraph 3 of the Announcement)

Restrictions on the Import of Detergents Containing Nonylphenol and Nonylphenol Polyethylene Glycol Ether

Announcement	Explanation
Subject: Enactment of the Restrictions on the Import of Detergents Containing Nonylphenol and Nonylphenol Polyethylene Glycol Ether," taking effect immediately.	The name and effective date of the Announcement.
Basis: Article 21 of the Waste Disposal Act.	The regulatory basis for the Announcement.
<p>Announcement details:</p> <p>I. The term "detergent" as used in the Announcement refers to any product containing soap or surfactant ingredients used in washing or cleaning processes, including various forms like liquid, powder, or paste.</p>	<p>The term "detergent" as used in the Announcement refers to any product containing soap or surfactant ingredients used in washing or cleaning processes. The term is defined in relation to the EU Detergents Regulation (EC) No. 648/2004, including any form (such as liquid, powder, paste, etc.) and use (such as household, institutional, or industrial).</p>
<p>II. Starting from December 1, 2026, the import of detergents containing NP or NPEO at a concentration of more than 5% by weight will be prohibited; the import of detergents at a concentration of more than 0.1% but less than 5% by weight will be prohibited starting from June 1, 2027.</p>	<p>I. NP and NPEO are toxic chemical substances as announced by the Ministry of Environment. According to the attached table in Paragraph 1 of the Ministry's announcement on the revision to the "Guidelines on Regulated Toxic Chemical Substances and the Management of Their Handling" on May 13, 2025, the control of the concentrations for these chemicals shall be as follows: 5 (w/w%) has been revised to 0.1 (w/w%). Besides being prohibited in the manufacture of household detergents, NP/NPEO-containing detergents for industrial and institutional use shall also be banned.</p> <p>II. In order to implement the comprehensive ban on detergents containing NP and NPEO, the import restrictions will be implemented in two phases. Starting from December 1, 2026, the first stage will target detergents containing NP or NPEO at a concentration of more than 5% by weight. Starting from June 1, 2027, the second stage will target detergents containing NP or NPEO at a concentration of more than 0.1% by weight.</p>
<p>III. If the detergents containing NP or NPEO prohibited from import as mentioned in the preceding paragraph meet any of the following criteria, applicants shall provide supporting documents for review. Import of such detergents may be approved after a document review by the central competent authority:</p> <p>(I) They are necessary for civilian protection and military purposes.</p> <p>(II) There are no suitable substitutes available and the detergents are used in controlled systems, processes, or con-</p>	<p>I. If importers are unable to obtain adequate detergent substitutes for specific purposes (such as for cleaning aircraft engines, military weapons), they shall provide relevant supporting documents and apply to the central competent authority for review.</p> <p>II. Where there are no suitable detergent substitutes available, if NP and NPEO will be used for industrial detergents, textile and leather processing, as well as the metal and paper industries, applicants shall include the relevant equipment, processes, wastewater, and full waste disposal planning in their</p>

trol equipment, and can be fully recycled, incinerated, or removed from wastewater.

application. They shall also provide proof that such detergents will be used in controlled systems, processes, and control equipment, and that NP and NPEO can be fully recycled, incinerated, or removed from wastewater.