

GUIDE TO THE BPR FOR BEDS & MATTRESSES

A supplementary guide for selling beds and mattresses that have been treated to impart an antimicrobial effect, such as: antibacterial, hypoallergenic or mould resistant. The BPR affects your products and you must ensure you are compliant with the BPR.

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About This Guide

This guide has been written by Addi-Tec to help explain the BPR to those in the EU who sell beds and mattresses which make a biocidal claim.

The guide is intended for use by product, marketing and technical teams, so we have written the guide to be accessible to all of these specialist areas. You can find further information about BPR in our larger and more general guide: [Guide To BPR Treated Articles which can be downloaded via this link.](#)

Addi-Tec's team are always available to you should you wish to discuss reformulation or regulatory challenges, you can find our contact details on pg.15.

Addi-Tec also work alongside the regulatory experts from ERM, a leading global provider of environmental, health, safety, risk, and social consulting services. You can find their contact details on pg.15.



The BPR In Brief

The BPR is rather complex, so we suggest you [download the full BPR guide from our website](#) in addition to this one if you'd like an in-depth understanding of the BPR.

BPR stands for Biocidal Products Regulation, which is an EU regulation that was introduced in 2012 and came into force in September 2013, but increasingly Authorities are focusing on enforcement. And with many products on the market which are not compliant, the BPR is becoming a more urgent matter in 2019.

The BPR controls the use of biocidal products and, importantly, any items treated with a biocidal product to achieve a biocidal effect. Previously, the EU had the BPD (Biocidal Products Directive) which would control the biocides used for products such as antibacterial cleaning spray, but the BPR now also controls the biocides used in, for example, an antibacterial mattress which has been treated with a similar chemical.

Manufacturers, retailers, marketers, and product owners need to fulfil several requirements under the BPR:

- Ensure the chemicals used are approved under the BPR and are approved for the product's category under the BPR
- Transparent marketing, meeting the standards set out in Article 58
- Making available further information on the chemicals used, this includes customer support, documentation in print and/or online



Definition Of A Biocide

A biocide is an agent that acts against...

Microorganisms:



Bacteria



Mould



Viruses



Algae



Fungi

Pests:



Insects



Rodents



Arachnids



And other pests

Definition of A Treated Article & Biocidal Product

A **'treated article'** is any physical product that has been treated with a biocidal product to provide some sort of action against a microorganism or pest.

A **'Biocidal Product'**, on the other hand, is a product that contains an 'active substance' that provides an intentional biocidal action as the primary function. One or more 'Biocidal Products' may be added to your 'treated article' to achieve the desired results.

Examples of a treated product include:

- A tent which is made from fabric that is mould resistant
- A door handle that uses a chemical to make it antibacterial
- 'Anti-odour' socks which use a substance to prevent bacteria that cause odour
- Latex gloves that incorporate a substance to make them anti-viral
- A mattress that uses a substance in the fabric to make it hypoallergenic (eg: anti-dust mite)

Is Your Bed or Mattress A 'Treated Article'?

	Must Use BPR Approved Biocides	Must Use BPR Compliant Marketing
Your bed or mattress does not use any active substance to control microbes	No	No
Your bed or mattress uses an active substance to control microbes but does not advertise this benefit	Yes	No
Your bed or mattress uses a chemical to control microbes and advertises this benefit in its marketing, eg: hypoallergenic or antibacterial	Yes	Yes

If you answer 'Yes' in both columns, then your bed or mattress is a Treated Article and must be BPR compliant.

What Marketing Teams Need To Know – Article 58

Article 58 states that you may only place on the market a treated article which complies with the BPR, and that any such articles must be clearly labelled to detail the biocidal product(s) that have been used.

Of course, adding a clear label stating that biocidal products have been used to provide the biocidal qualities of your product can present a marketing challenge. So our advice is to be as transparent as possible, follow the labelling advice on the next page and ensure you are fully compliant.

You can use BPR compliance to your advantage, the best way is to talk about it. Consider creating a campaign announcing what biocide you're using, why you're updating your packaging to reflect this and why BPR compliance is an important step for your company as well as for human, animal and environmental safety. You may well have competitors who aren't as quick off the mark to promote this important USP, so take advantage while you can.



Examples Of Compliant Product Labelling

In case of a labelling requirement, the tag or the packaging must include the following information:

1. A statement that the treated article incorporates biocidal products;
2. Where this is substantiated, the biocidal property attributed to the treated article;
3. The name of all active substances, which are contained in the biocidal products;
4. The names of all nano materials contained in the biocidal products, if applicable, followed by the word “nano” in parentheses.

The label must be clearly visible, easily read and in the official language(s) of the respective country.

Here is an example from one of our suppliers, SANITIZED AG.



This label contains the following information:

1. A statement that the treated article incorporates biocidal products;
= **Contains a biocidal substance** ✓
2. Where this is substantiated, the biocidal property attributed to the treated article;
= **Claim: Feel the difference of Sanitized® treated odor-resistant articles** ✓
3. The name of all active substances, which are contained in the biocidal products;
= **Contains biocidal substance: silver glass phosphate** ✓
4. The names of all nano materials contained in the biocidal products, if applicable, followed by the word “nano” in parentheses.
= **SANITIZED has no products with nano material** ✓

The QR code provides additional proactive information about the effect for consumers on a mobile website and at www.sanitized.com.

And here is a great example of a product manufacturer/retailer working together with a biocide supplier to ensure that they are meeting BPR compliance:

Barker & Finch
Purveyors of Quality and Craftsmanship

staingard™ **Sanitized** Protection

PROTECTED
1500 POCKET NATURAL
FULLY CERTIFIED AGAINST DUST MITES
STAIN PROTECTED FABRICS
CONTRACT RATED

FABRIC COMPOSITION:
SLEEP SURFACE: 100% COTTON - BORDER: 100% COTTON

Sanitized®
protective finish for
lasting freshness

Protection

 www.sanitized.com
Contains biocidal substance:
Zinc Pyrithione

BF-PNC-1500

1. A statement that the treated article incorporates biocidal products
2. Where this is substantiated, the biocidal property attributed to the treated article
3. The name of all active substances contained in the biocidal products

What About Brexit?

The UK was involved in setting up the BPR, so similar if not identical regulations will be adopted for the UK when it leaves the EU. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have released the following information regarding chemical regulations, in general, post Brexit:

“The UK is strongly committed to the effective and safe management of chemicals. That will not change when we leave the EU.

The Government fully recognises the importance of the chemicals sector to the UK economy and its contribution to other sectors, such as automotive, aerospace and life sciences.

Our priorities are to ensure the continued effective and safe management of chemicals to safeguard human health and the environment, respond to emerging risks and allow trade with the EU that is as frictionless as possible.”

The Government have released further information regarding BPR in a no-deal Brexit scenario (see link below), and the situation remains to be seen should a new deal be accepted. Our advice is to keep a close eye on the situation. The main point of difference will be whether companies deal with the ECHA or the UK-based HSE.

[Read the full statement here.](#)



Compliance

If Your Biocide Is Not BPR Compliant

You may still have a supply of now non-compliant product on-sale or in your warehouse, so you need to make a decision about what you will do with non-compliant stock. For example, there may be the possibility to sell your left over stock in a non-EU country, but you would need to ensure there could be no re-sale of the product into the EU or UK and always check local regulations first.

To continue to sell your treated product in Europe and the UK you will need to reformulate with an approved biocide for your claimed biocidal effect, eg: Approved supplier and product listed under the correct PT.

If You Claim A Biocidal Effect Without Using A Biocide

Companies that claim a biocidal result from a non-biocidal product also need to make changes. For example, some products claim that using herbal oils can prevent dust mites on fabrics, however this is untrue, misleading and definitely not compliant with the BPR. In this case these are the options available to you:

- Update your treated product to use a biocide approved and listed under the correct PT and label it correctly
- Cease the marketing claim that your untreated product has a biocidal effect

If You Claim Your Product Has Natural Biocidal Action Without Using A Biocide

If you claim your product has a biocidal effect without using a biocide, ie: some property of the structure prevents a microbe, you are claiming your product achieves a biocidal effect without the use of any biocide, chemical or substance.

In this case the BPR does not apply to your product as it is not a treated article, however, you are still responsible for your marketing claims so you should:

- Be able to back up your claims with independent testing and make results available to your customers at their request
- Ideally, seek certification, such as Allergy UK to backup your claims.

Penalties for non-compliance “**must be effective, proportionate and dissuasive**” and include up to 2 years’ imprisonment in certain cases.


Find out more about compliance and penalties in our complete BPR guide which you can [download for free from our website.](#)



If you think your current biocide is not BPR compliant, contact Addi-Tec for regulatory and re-formulation advice as soon as possible.

Products To Help With Compliance

While there are many biocides available which are BPR approved, we've picked out one in particular which we feel is suitable for a wide variety of treated products. It's available in many forms, so can be included in a variety of ways to your product, and it's highly effective against a large variety of microbes.

Sanitized®
BPR PT9 Compliant 



Sanitized® is a PT9 BPR compliant biocide from a BPR approved supplier based in Switzerland.

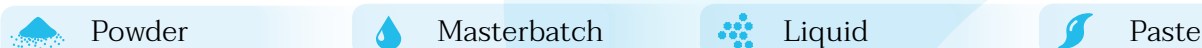
PT9 substances act as a preservative for the following materials by antagonising the settlement of microorganisms on the surface.

Fibre	Leather	Rubber	Polymers
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This means Sanitized® is suitable for a wide range of products to prevent:



Sanitized® can be added to virtually any product, it's available in a variety of formats and requires a relatively low inclusion level of product to be added during the manufacturing process for good efficacy.



Sanitized® is a trusted global brand, and offers more than just an amazing product.



Working With Addi-Tec

Addi-Tec is a leading chemical distributor, focussing on the additive chemical market, based in Manchester, UK.

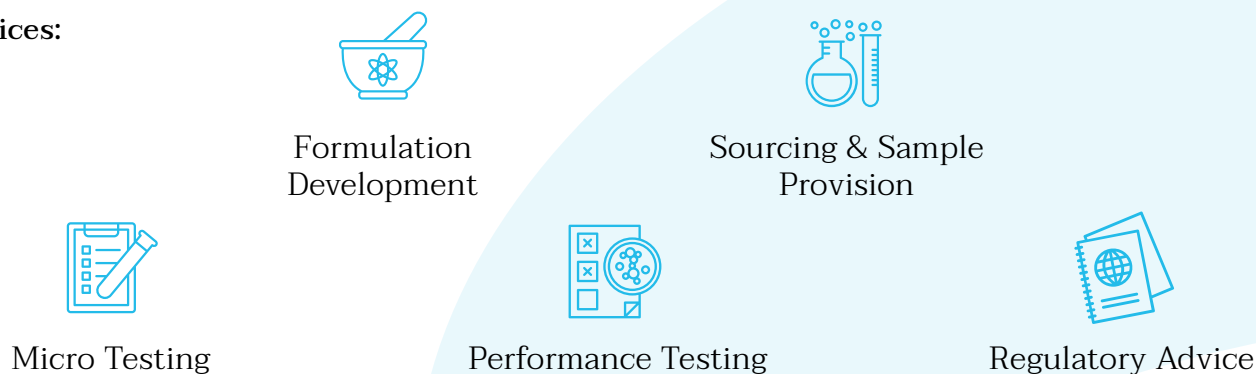
Addi-Tec presents a sophisticated range of performance chemicals to the Plastics, PVC, Paints, Coatings, Geo Textiles and Formulator Industries.

In addition to utilising the expertise of leading producers of performance chemicals, Addi-Tec also has access to the Chemlink Specialities technical/laboratory facilities located in Urmston, Manchester. The company approach is to work closely with processors to ensure we meet ever more stringent technical and regulatory demands at reasonable cost.

Applications:

- Paints and Coatings
- PVC Film and Sheet
- Moulded Articles
- Footwear
- Apparel
- Coated Fabrics
- PVC Profiles
- Automotive
- Wall Coverings

Services:



Case Study

Earlier this year, Addi-Tec teamed up with a few like minded businesses to help bed and mattress manufacturers in the UK tackle the BPR.

In the UK we're lucky to have some brilliant bed manufacturers and designers. However when Addi-Tec approached these leading manufacturers, very few manufacturers were even aware of the BPR.

Most bed and mattress manufacturers, along with many other sectors of the furnishing industry, are not BPR compliant. There are no labels and some of the chemicals being used as biocides to generate the products' USPs are not BPR approved, yet the marketing claims are clear and present. These companies describe their mattresses as 'mould resistant', 'antibacterial' and 'anti-dust mite' (to name only a few), yet their products are not BPR compliant. They will require some redevelopment and remarketing to become compliant.

That's why the Addi-Tec team joined forces with:

- D&A Bed Consultants LTD, a bed and mattress design company who provide mattress ticking and fabrics to the industry
- SANITIZED AG, the leading supplier of BPR PT9 compliant antimicrobials - Sanitized® worldwide registered trademark to label the hygiene function and material protection on the article
- Staingard, who supply a product to prevent fabric staining



This team is now able to offer treated fabrics and finished mattresses to the bed industry which are BPR compliant, stain-resistant and antimicrobial. On top of that, they can offer the required labelling and marketing advice to stay BPR compliant.

The resulting treated fabrics that the team have developed have produced brilliant test results, provided by independent laboratories. They are now able to prove that the product is effective against e-coli, MRSA, and aspergillia niger (black mould).

In addition, Allergy UK have approved the Sanitized® treated fabric, thanks to an independent test study on the reduction of dust mites to levels that are insignificant in terms of allergies. So any brands looking to promote their beds and mattresses as hypoallergenic can claim hypoallergenic under BPR and also apply for the Allergy UK seal of approval to back it up using this fabric.



Dust Mite Study Results

Sample	Replicate	Mites Alive	% Reduction
Untreated Control - 100% Cotton	1	853	
	2	837	
	3	889	
	4	815	
	mean	848.5	n/a
Sample 1 - 100% Cotton, 0.5% Sanitized®	1	0	
	2	0	
	3	0	
	4	0	
	mean	0	100%
Sample 2 - 100% Stretch Cotton, 0.5% Sanitized®	1	0	
	2	19	
	3	37	
	4	5	
	mean	15.25	98.2%

Sample	Test Point	Activity	% Reduction	Evaluation
Egyptian Cotton Mattress Ticking - 100% Cotton, 0.5% Sanitized®	Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) ATCC 33592	>5.30	>99.99	Good Effect
	Staphylococcus aureus ATCC 6538	>5.40	>99.99	Good Effect
Stretch Cotton Mattress Ticking - 100% Cotton, 0.5% Sanitized®	Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) ATCC 33592	>5.20	>99.99	Good Effect
	Staphylococcus aureus ATCC 6538	>5.40	>99.99	Good Effect

The team are now in discussions with several major bed manufacturers across the UK helping them to achieve compliance.

Contact Our Team

If you'd like to ensure your treated product is BPR compliant, we'd be happy to speak to you. Or if you're looking to source a biocidal product for inclusion into your treated produce we're ready to assist you.

Addi-Tec

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[Get directions](#)

Helpful Resources

[Consolidated BPR Document](#)

[ECHA Biocidal Active Substance List](#)

[List Of Active Substances & Suppliers
\(Article 95\)](#)

[ERM - leading global provider of
environmental, health, safety, risk, and
social consulting services](#)

[Treated Articles Q&A Document](#)

Other Useful Contacts

ERM

A leading global provider of environmental,
health, safety, risk, and social consulting services.

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Harrogate, HG1 1TS

Tel: +44 (0)1423 520245

Web: www.erm.com

D&A Bed Consultants Ltd

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Email: sales@staingard.co.uk

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