



Design for the Environment (DfE)

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Voluntary Program

ABOUT THE DESIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (DFE) CERTIFICATION

EPA's DfE logo helps consumers and commercial buyers identify antimicrobial products that meet the health and safety standards of the pesticide registrations process required by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) as well as other rigorous criteria required by the agency.

Antimicrobial products composed of one or more of the following active ingredients may be considered for the DfE logo:

- Citric acid
- Hydrogen peroxide
- L-lactic acid
- Ethanol
- Isopropanol
- Peroxyacetic acid
- Sodium Bisulfate
- Chitosan

Note: At present, these actives meet the [DfE certification criteria](#). Actives not listed here may also be considered for use in DfE products. If your active is not listed, contact DfE_Support@abtassoc.com before starting the submission process.

MINIMUM CRITERIA

To qualify for the DfE logo, products must meet both ingredient- and product-level requirements. For more information, see the Safer Choice Standard and Criteria: <https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/standard>.

- **Ingredients:** Every ingredient, regardless of percentage in the product, must meet stringent safety criteria for both human health and the environment, including carcinogenicity, reproductive/developmental toxicity, toxicity to aquatic life, and persistence in the environment.
- **Product performance:** Products' antimicrobial efficacy is evaluated during the OPP review. If your product's label claims that the product is effective against [microorganisms that pose a threat to human health](#), you will need to provide laboratory testing data demonstrating the product's effectiveness. Other claims, such as cleaning efficacy claims, must pass category-specific performance standards as defined in the Safer Choice Standard. All products must perform comparably to conventional products.
- **Packaging:** Packaging must meet sustainability and ingredient criteria as defined in the Safer Choice Standard.
- **pH:** Products must meet pH standards that minimize the potential for skin and eye irritation or injury.
- **VOCs:** Safer Choice restricts VOC content to minimize indoor air pollution and associated respiratory concerns.

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PROCESS

To carry the DfE logo on your products, you must submit them for review to BOTH the EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) and the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), as detailed on the following website: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-labels/design-environment-dfe-certification-information-registrants>.

OPPT Review: *(for questions about this portion of the DfE certification process, contact DfE_Support@abtassoc.com)*

1. Contact a qualified third-party profiler (TPP) and work with them to submit your product(s) for review.
2. The TPP compiles hazard information on each chemical ingredient. (6-8 weeks).
3. With your permission, the TPP sends the product reviews to Safer Choice. The Safer Choice team confirms the ingredients meet DfE criteria and identifies areas for improvement. (6-8 weeks).
4. Safer Choice and the TPPs communicate the review's outcome to you. For qualifying products, you and Safer Choice sign a voluntary partnership agreement, and DfE certification of your product(s) begins. Each year there is an audit, either on-site or desk, and at the three-year mark, you would need to provide information to renew the partnership.

OPP Review: *(for questions about this portion of the DfE certification process, contact your [product manager](#))*

1. Submit product for registration to the OPP Antimicrobials Division as a Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) application.
2. OPP reviews submission (120 – 150 days).
3. If OPP finds that the product meets DfE criteria, you will receive a pre-determination notification, along with possible labeling annotation requests.
4. Submit final printed label with all annotations addressed.
5. When your application is approved, you will receive an EPA-stamped, accepted label for sale and distribution.

COST

The cost of the OPPT review ultimately depends on the complexity of the formulation for your product. While there is no fee from Safer Choice, the TPPs charge for the service they provide, averaging approximately \$3,000 per product reviewed. However, each TPP assesses fees differently, and Safer Choice recommends contacting them to get quotes for both the product review and audits.

The cost of a PRIA application through OPP ranges from \$3,831 for a currently registered product adding the DfE logo (i.e., a label amendment) to \$5,363 for a new product registration.

RESOURCES

- Learn about the Design for Environment (DfE) program: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-labels/learn-about-design-environment-dfe-certification>
- View the full list of DfE-certified products: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-labels/dfe-certified-disinfectants>