

Action 3.13: Clean and safe environment

Introduction

This fact sheet provides health service organisations and accrediting agencies with updated advice regarding **Action 3.13: Clean and safe environment** and requirements for the use of neutral detergents.

Clean and safe environment

Health service organisations implementing the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards are required to establish systems and processes to maintain a clean, safe and hygienic environment, in line with the current edition of the [Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare](#) and jurisdictional requirements.

Action 3.13 requires cleaning and disinfection to be performed:

- Using products listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG)
- In accordance with manufacturers' instructions for use
- At recommended frequencies.

The [Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare](#) state disinfectants must be listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) if used in a health service organisation. Further information about disinfectants is available on the [TGA website](#). Neutral detergents are not listed on the ARTG.

Neutral detergents facilitate the removal of dirt and organic matter but are not a disinfectant or sterilant. They should be used along with a disinfectant to clean a contaminated surface or device.

Requirements for health service organisations

As neutral detergents used by a health service organisation are not listed on the ARTG, health service organisations have a responsibility to assess the efficacy of cleaning products such as neutral detergent wipes, and to ensure cleaning products are safe and effective for its intended use.

Further, use of these products should be in accordance with manufacturer's Instructions.

To support health service organisations to implement action 3.13, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has developed a fact sheet: [Principles of environmental cleaning product selection](#). This fact sheet provides information on cleaning product selection and advice on the use of ARTG-listed products.

Questions?

For more information, please visit: safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/nsqhs-standards or email the Safety and Quality Advice Centre at AdviceCentre@safetyandquality.gov.au or call 1800 304 056