



June 23, 2020

Informational Bulletin

- Antimicrobial Inks and Coatings -

Overview:

Inks or coatings intended to provide antimicrobial (or antiviral) properties are regulated by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)¹ as *antimicrobial pesticides*.

Details:

Registration

Specifically, products intended to disinfect, sanitize, reduce, or mitigate growth or development of microbiological organisms or protect inanimate objects, industrial processes or systems, surfaces, water, or other chemical substances from contamination, fouling, or deterioration caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa, algae, or slime are covered under this category.

Products covered under these category cannot be sold or distributed in the U.S. unless they are registered by the EPA under the Federal Fungicide, Insecticide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). In addition, most states require state registration in addition to federal registration¹.

Product Labeling

In addition, EPA reviews the product label as part of the licensing/registration process for pesticides. The label on a pesticide package or container and the accompanying instructions are a key part of pesticide regulation. The required label provides critical information about how to handle and safely use the pesticide product and avoid harm to human health and the environment and must be on the container. Below is an excerpted label (does not show all required information) section of an EPA registered antimicrobial coating:



Antimicrobial coating for the preservation and protection of paper and paperboard susceptible to bacterial, fungal and/or mold growth and attack.

WARNING
Keep Out Of Reach of Children

FIRST AID

If in Eyes: Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15-20 minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present, after the first five minutes, then continue rinsing eye. Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.

If on Skin or Clothing: Take off contaminated clothing. Rinse skin immediately for 15-20 minutes. Call poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.

If Inhaled: Move person to fresh air. If person is not breathing, call 911 or an ambulance, then give artificial respiration, preferably by mouth-to-mouth, if possible. Call a poison control center or doctor for further treatment advice.

If Swallowed: Call a poison control center or doctor immediately for treatment advice. Have person sip a glass of water if able to swallow. Do not induce vomiting unless told to do so by a poison control center or doctor. Do not give anything by mouth to an unconscious person.

Have the product container or label with you when calling a poison control center or doctor, or going for treatment. You may also contact 800-222-1222 for emergency medical treatment information.

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Chemical 1 | 2.42% |
| Chemical 2 | 5.66% |
| Inert Ingredients | 91.92% |
| TOTAL: | 100.00% |

EPA Reg. No. xxxx-x
US EPA Est. XXXXX-XX-XX

Resources:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/antimicrobial-pesticide-registration>

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/labeling-requirements>

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/pesticide-registration-manual-chapter-17-state-regulatory-authority>