

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

1009

BLEACH AND FOODSERVICE SANITIZING

When is bleach not bleach? That depends upon the application. While you could use laundry bleach and sanitizing bleach to remove stains from fabrics, you can't necessarily use laundry bleach to sanitize food contact surfaces. Why? Wrong application. Bleach used for sanitizing food contact surfaces [dishes, flatware, drinking glasses] must be approved by the EPA for use as a sanitizer. This involves rigorous testing of the compound at the specified used dilution, and the results must be reported to the EPA. It also involves disclosure of formula to the USDA in order to receive USDA acceptance for that product to be used on food contact surfaces. While laundry bleach may be cheaper than sanitizing bleach, often it has neither the regulatory approval nor the appropriate label directions [labels are legal documents in the eyes of the EPA] for use as food contact surface sanitizers.

Laundry bleach often contains perfumes to enhance the clean smell of laundry. These perfumes present an additional problem for food contact surface sanitizing. In keeping with best practices of EPA and USDA, perfumed products are not acceptable for no-rinse sanitizing as the perfume portion could contaminate food contact surfaces.

To prevent possible contamination of utensils and dishes with perfumes, and to ensure compliance with sanitary guidelines and regulations, only EPA approved and USDA accepted sanitizers may be used. These products have been reviewed and accepted by these agencies as appropriate for use on food contact surfaces. For low temp dish machine use, Intercon's Low Temp Sanitizer is the product of choice. It is EPA registered and USDA accepted as a type D2 sanitizer, for use on food contact surfaces not requiring a potable water rinse.

So, when choosing food service sanitizers, use only those products designed and accepted for use in food service applications--where bleach isn't always bleach.

For further information on use and application of this product, please contact your Sales Representative or call Customer Technical Service at 800.325.9218 ext. 580.