

COSHH Assessment: Detergent Products

Magic Touch Cleaning Solutions Ltd

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Assessment reference: MTCS-COSHH-01

Activity assessed: dishwashing and general purpose cleaning using neutral liquid detergent, diluted in a bucket and applied with a cloth

Responsible person: Abdulfattah Mahmoud Alkidra, Director

1. Purpose and scope

This assessment is made under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended). It supports the general duties owed by Magic Touch Cleaning Solutions Ltd under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the risk assessment duty under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

It covers neutral liquid detergent products used by the company for dishwashing and general purpose cleaning. The representative product is NW13000 Detergent (Min 80C), supplied by Nationwide Hygiene Supplies. Equivalent neutral liquid detergents used for the same task fall within scope, provided the current safety data sheet for the product confirms an equivalent composition and classification. The current safety data sheet for each detergent in use is held with this assessment and takes precedence over the general product description below.

2. Substance identification

Item	Detail
Product class	Neutral liquid detergent (washing-up and general purpose cleaning)
Representative product	NW13000 Detergent (Min 80C), Nationwide Hygiene Supplies
Form and appearance	Clear liquid, characteristic odour
pH (concentrate)	Approximately 7.5 (neutral)
Composition	Anionic surfactants at 10 to 30 per cent, with further anionic and non-ionic surfactants at 1 to 5 per cent each
Solubility	Soluble in water
Flammability	Not flammable
Method of use	Diluted in water according to the supplier's instructions and applied with a cloth. No spray application in the assessed task

Detergents supplied for this use must meet the surfactant biodegradability requirements of Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 on detergents, as that Regulation applies in Great Britain.

3. Hazard classification

Classification for supply in Great Britain is governed by Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, as it applies in Great Britain (the GB CLP Regulation). The product as supplied is not classified as hazardous for supply. The surfactant

raw materials carry irritant classifications in their concentrated form, and the practical hazards recorded on the safety data sheet are:

- Skin: prolonged or repeated contact with the neat product dries the skin. Frequent wet work with detergent solutions is a recognised cause of irritant contact dermatitis in cleaning work.
- Eyes: splashes are likely to cause irritation.
- Ingestion: severe abdominal pain and diarrhoea.
- Inhalation: not significant. The product is not volatile and is not sprayed in the assessed task.

Although the product is not classified as hazardous for supply, the company assesses and controls it under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended) because of the dermatitis risk that arises from regular wet work.

Risk rating with the controls in section 7 applied: low.

4. Persons at risk

Cleaning operatives carrying out the task are the main group at risk. Others present at the work location, including client staff, visitors and household members, could be affected by an unattended container or an uncleared spillage. Children are a particular concern in domestic settings. Exposure for anyone other than the operative is expected to be rare and brief.

5. Routes of exposure

Skin contact with the concentrate or the diluted solution, eye contact from splashes, and ingestion following hand-to-mouth contact or accidental swallowing. Inhalation is not a significant route for this product and task.

6. Workplace exposure limits

No workplace exposure limit is assigned to this product or to its surfactant components in EH40/2005 Workplace Exposure Limits (fourth edition, 2020), published by the Health and Safety Executive for use with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended). The absence of a limit does not mean exposure carries no risk. Exposure is kept as low as reasonably practicable through the controls below.

7. Control measures

Controls follow the hierarchy required by regulation 7 of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended):

1. **Elimination:** not reasonably practicable. The cleaning task requires a detergent.
2. **Substitution:** the company already selects the lowest-hazard product class suitable for the task, a neutral pH detergent that is not classified as hazardous for supply. Product selection is reviewed if a lower-hazard alternative becomes available.
3. **Engineering controls:** none required. The product creates no significant airborne exposure in normal use.
4. **Safe systems of work:**
 - Dilute to the supplier's stated concentration. Stronger solutions increase skin risk without improving results.
 - Never mix the product with any other chemical, including bleach.
 - Decant the concentrate carefully at low height to avoid splashes.
 - Keep containers closed and upright when not in use, in their original labelled packaging.
 - Do not immerse bare hands in the cleaning solution. Wring cloths with gloved hands.
 - Rinse and dry hands thoroughly after the task. Skin conditioning cream is made available and its use after wet work is encouraged.
 - Never transfer the product into unlabelled containers, and never into food or drink containers.
5. **Personal protective equipment:** as section 8, used in addition to the controls above, not in place of them.

8. Personal protective equipment

The company provides the following free of charge, as required by the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (as amended by the Personal Protective Equipment at Work (Amendment) Regulations 2022), which extend the duty to workers as well as employees:

- Household rubber or nitrile gloves for all wet work with detergent solutions, and for any handling of the concentrate.
- Eye protection where the concentrate is decanted or where there is a foreseeable risk of splashing to the eyes.
- General workwear for routine use of the diluted solution.

Operatives check PPE before use and report damage. Damaged or degraded PPE is replaced before work continues.

9. Storage

Store in a cool, dry, ventilated place, in the original closed container, upright, away from food and drink, and out of the reach of children. Protect from freezing. Do not store with incompatible chemicals. On client sites, containers are returned to the operative's kit or the agreed storage point at the end of the task and are never left unattended in areas accessible to children.

10. First aid

First aid provision is maintained in accordance with the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981. For this product:

- **Ingestion:** rinse the mouth thoroughly and drink plenty of water. Do not induce vomiting. Seek medical attention immediately.
- **Skin contact:** rinse with water. Seek medical attention if discomfort continues.
- **Eye contact:** wash the eyes promptly with plenty of water while lifting the eyelids. Seek medical attention if discomfort continues.

11. Spillage

Contain the spillage and stop the leak if it is safe to do so. Small spills of the diluted solution may be wiped up and the area rinsed. For spills of the concentrate, absorb with vermiculite, dry sand or earth, place the absorbed material in a suitable container and dispose of it as described in section 12. Spilt detergent makes floors slippery: cordon off or warn until the area is clean and dry.

12. Disposal

Dispose of waste in accordance with the waste duty of care under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and local authority requirements. Diluted washing solutions from normal use may be discharged to the foul drain at the premises where the work is carried out. Empty containers are drained, rinsed and disposed of as non-hazardous waste through the client's or the company's waste arrangements, with waste transfer documentation retained where required.

13. Health surveillance

Formal health surveillance under regulation 11 of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended) is not required for this product. Because regular wet work can cause dermatitis, the company operates simple skin checks as good practice: operatives are instructed to report dryness, redness, cracking or itching of the hands, and supervisors ask about skin condition during routine contact. Reported symptoms trigger a review of glove use and working methods, and referral for medical advice where symptoms persist.

14. Information, instruction and training

Operatives receive COSHH training before their first assignment, covering the hazards of the products in use, correct dilution, the controls in this assessment, PPE, first aid, spillage and disposal. Understanding is refreshed through periodic toolbox talks. The safety data sheet for each product in

use is available to operatives, and this assessment is communicated to every operative who carries out the task.

15. Review of this assessment

This assessment is reviewed no later than twelve months from the issue date, and earlier if the product or supplier changes, the method of use changes, a health effect or incident is reported, or there is reason to believe the assessment is no longer valid.

Document Control

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Approved by	Abdulfattah Mahmoud Alkidra, Director

Signed: 

Abdulfattah Mahmoud Alkidra, Director

For and on behalf of Magic Touch Cleaning Solutions Ltd

Date: 27-06-2027