

**Accord Actions in response to Expert Review of the criteria relating to microorganisms**  
(Review conducted by Jennifer Wan, General Manager, Eurofins ams Laboratories Pty Ltd.)

Accord notes that, pleasingly, this review raises no concerns with the proposed criteria.

The report makes one recommendation for inclusion of criteria to ensure efficacy/minimum viable population throughout product shelf life.

In response, the following criterion has been included in the Standard Criteria:

**6.4.7 Efficacy**

Evidence that product performance is maintained for the duration of the product's shelf life must be provided.

*Rationale: It is essential that where microorganisms perform an active product function, that they remain viable throughout the use life of the product. The evidence requirement for product performance is flexible rather than prescriptive (e.g. requiring a minimum plate count) to provide assurance of product performance whilst also ensuring that potential new technologies and microorganism-based cleaning product applications are not discouraged under this Scheme. The acceptability of evidence is at the sole discretion of the third-party assessor based on their expert scientific assessment.*