

# Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative (SDSI)



[Formulator Program Home](#) | [About This Project](#) | [Findings & Accomplishments](#) | [Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative](#) | [Publications](#) | [Partners and Recognized Products](#)

## **Request for Comments**

A [Federal Register Notice requesting comments on the Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative](#) was published on May 9, 2007. Comments must be submitted online by July 9, 2007 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), Docket ID EPA-HQ-OPPT-2007-0274.

## **What is the Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative?**

EPA is developing the Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative (SDSI) to recognize environmental leaders who voluntarily commit to the use of safer surfactants. Safer surfactants are surfactants that break down quickly to non-polluting compounds. Nonylphenol ethoxylates, commonly referred to as NPEs, are an example of a surfactant class that does not meet this definition. Both NPEs and their breakdown products, such as nonylphenol, are toxic to aquatic life.

SDSI complements the [Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Nonylphenol](#). These criteria are designed to protect aquatic life in both fresh and saltwater and can form the basis for state and tribal water quality standards.

The Design for the Environment Program has identified safer alternative surfactants through its partnership work with industry and environmental advocates. These safer alternatives are comparable in cost and are readily available.

## **Who is Eligible for Recognition?**

SDSI seeks partners from businesses engaged in the production or use of surfactants, as well as from those involved in the purchasing or distribution of products containing surfactants. Others (e.g., non-profit organizations, unions, academia) may also qualify through active encouragement of the use of safer surfactants.

## How do I Apply for Recognition?

A draft application is available for public comment. Per the [Federal Register](#) notice announcing the request, comments are due on July 9, 2007. To comment, you must go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and click on Advanced Search, then Docket Search. The docket ID number is EPA-HQ-OPPT-2007-0274. The draft application is included in document EPA-HQ-OPPT-2007-0274-0002, Information Collection Request (ICR): Reporting Requirements under EPA's Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative (SDSI) Program. If you would like more information, please contact [Kathleen Vokes](mailto:vokes.kathleen@epa.gov) (vokes.kathleen@epa.gov) or [Libby Sommer](mailto:sommer.elizabeth@epa.gov) (sommer.elizabeth@epa.gov).

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## Local Navigation

- [DfE Home](#)
  - [Basic Information](#)
  - [Partnership Projects](#)
  - [Approaches and Tools](#)
  - [Publications](#)
- 

- [EPA Home](#)
- [Privacy and Security Notice](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

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<http://www.epa.gov/dfe/pubs/projects/formulat/sdsi.htm>

[Print As-Is](#)

[Jump to main content.](#)

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- You are here: [EPA Home](#)
  - [Pollution Prevention & Toxics](#)
  - [DfE](#)
  - [Partnerships for a Cleaner Future](#)
  - Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative
-