10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT ANTIMICROBIALS

Biocides are a controversial topic.
As an **eco-responsible actor,** Tarkett has decided **to stop the use of biocides when it´s not necessary.**

This decision has been taken:
- To avoid contributing to bacteria resistance
- To prevent any potential harmful impact on people health & the environment.

USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS IN FLOORING: NO EVIDENCE OF BENEFIT

1. **Antimicrobials are not necessary :** Although a range of antimicrobial-impregnated products (such as surface coatings, paints and curtains) are available, there is, at present, no definitive data to support their efficacy in **reducing** Healthcare associated Infections[1].
2. **Cleanability** of materials and **appropriate cleaning** are key components of **Infection Prevention Control**.
3. **Standards** often used such as ISO 22196 (based on JIS2801) are deemed inappropriate to test antimicrobial surfaces due to artificial experimental conditions including high temperatures of 37°C, high 100% relative humidity, and a direct liquid presentation of the bacterial culture[2] **far from real conditions of use**.

IMPACT ON HUMAN HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

4. **Antimicrobials may increase the risk of multidrug-resistant bacteria (Super Bugs)** that no longer respond to medical treatments. The SCENIHR (Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Indentified Health Risks) states that: There is concern that the widespread use of biocides may lead to the emergence or proliferation of harmful bacteria that are resistant to both biocides and antibiotics[3].
5. **Antimicrobial resistance** is a major public health threat that **could lead to 10 million deaths per year in 2050**[4]. In Europe, 2/3 of the 37000 deaths caused by Healthcare Acquired Infection are due to multidrugs-resistant bacteria[5].

CUSTOMER DEMAND

6. **Antimicrobials are not desired by customers.** American healthcare provider Kaiser Permanente in 2015 banned antimicrobial agents for use in its hospitals and other buildings and implemented purchasing standards into its product-sourcing processes that include criteria for safe chemicals including total elimination of antibacterial agents at its facilities[6].
7. Some architects have placed “Products Marketed as Antimicrobial” on a Precautionary List, and advise clients to choose alternative products where appropriate[7].

EUROPEAN REGULATION & TARKETT EMEA POSITION

8. **Treated articles aren't always advertised** clearly or accurately. Labelling is always required when an article refers to biocidal properties as specified in Article 58 of the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR).
9. In 2013, **Tarkett decided to move away from adding antimicrobials in its flooring production** due to customer demand, inefficacy of using them and, Tarkett's own environmental position of using “Good Materials” that does not have a negative impact on humans or the environment.

[1] Health Building Note 00-09: Infection control in the built environment - Department of Health UK
[2] Ojeil M, Jermann C, Holah J, Denyer SP, Maillard JY. Evaluation of new in vitro efficacy test for antimi-crobial surface activity reflecting UK hospital conditions.
[3] Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR): «Assessment of the Antibiotic Resistance Effects of Biocides (2009)» https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/opinions_layman/en/biocides-antibiotic-resistance/biocides-antibiotic-resistance-greenfacts.pdf
[4] No time to wait: securing the future from drug-resistant infections https://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/interagency-coordination-group/IACG_final_report_EN.pdf?ua=1
[5] https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/who-we-are/disease-programmes/antimicrobial-resistance-and-healthcare-associated
[6] https://about.kaiserpermanente.org/total-health/health-topics/kaiser-permanente-rejects-antimicrobials-for-infection-control
[7] https://healthy-materials-lab.s3.amazonaws.com/resources

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