



Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Phosphates in detergents in the Czech Republic

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Voluntary Agreements between the Association of producers and the Ministry of the Environment

- ❖ Agreement between the Czech Association of Producers of Soaps, Cleaning Agents and Detergents and the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic on gradual decrease in the environmental impact of detergents – 22 of March 1995
- ❖ 1st Amendment to the Agreement – 23 of June 1998
- ❖ 2nd Amendment to the Agreement – 12 of December 2001



Parties of Agreement and its Aim

- ❖ Members of Association: UNILEVER CZ, spol. s.r.o (limited liability co.), PROCTER and GAMBLE, v.o.s. (joint stock co.), HENKEL CZ, spol. s.r.o., RECKITT BENCKISER, spol. s.r.o., SETUZA, a.s. (stock co.) and the Ministry of the Environment
- ❖ Aim of the Agreement and its Amendments is first of all to decrease the amount of phosphates in detergents and their impact on the waters



Voluntary Agreement between the Czech Association of Producers of Soaps, Cleaning Agents and Detergents and the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic (March 1995)

- ❖ Limit for phosphorus in normal washing powders - 5.5% by weight
- ❖ Limits for the content of inorganic phosphorus in phosphate-free washing powders – 0.1% by weight and phosphorus in alkylphosphonates - 1.0% by weight
- ❖ Association commits itself to promote compact powders (powders with lower content of fillers, lower usage of chemicals for washing and lower costs for packaging and transport)
- ❖ Association commits itself to support public awareness on environmentally friendly products



Further commitments

- ❖ Limit for the ethylene diamine-tetra-acetic acid - 0.1% by weight
- ❖ Limit for nitril-acetic acid – 4.0% by weight
- ❖ Limit for polycarbonates – 6.0% by weight

- ❖ Surfactants contained in detergents should be biologically degradable



1st Amendment to the Voluntary Agreement (June 1998)

- ❖ Members of the Association commit themselves not to use surfactants on the basis of alkyl-phenols with ethylene-oxide

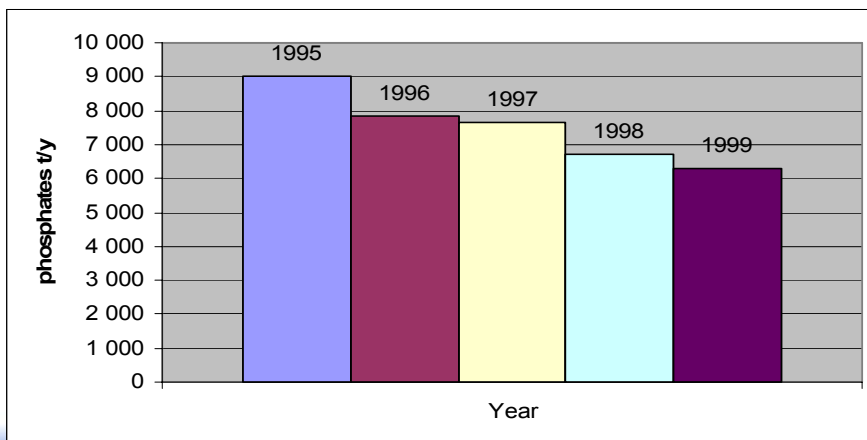


Content of phosphates in the detergents on the Czech market 1995-1999

- ❖ In 1995 - 9000 t/y of phosphates
- ❖ In 1996 – 7850 t/y of phosphates – share of phosphate free detergents on the market - 16%
- ❖ In 1997 – 7650 t/y of phosphates - share of phosphate free detergents on the market – 32.7%
- ❖ In 1998 – 6737 t/y of phosphates - share of phosphate free detergents on the market – 30.2%
- ❖ In 1999 – 6295 t/y of phosphates - share of phosphate free detergents on the market - 36%



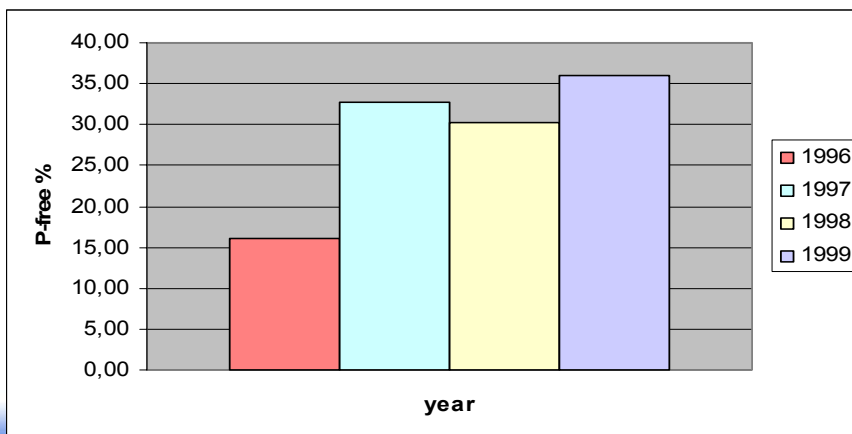
Content of phosphates in detergents on the Czech market 1995-1999





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% of P – free detergents on the Czech market



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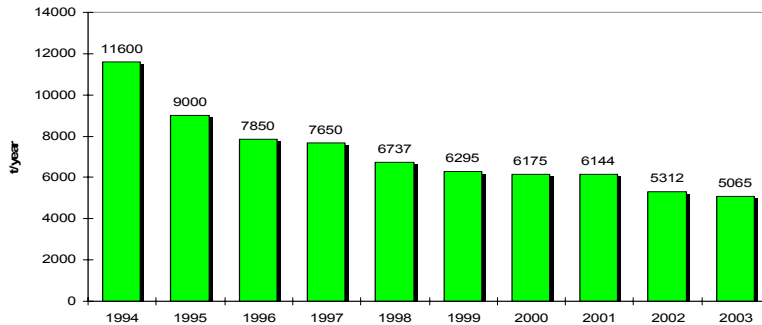
2nd Amendment to the Voluntary Agreement (December 2001)

- ❖ Members of Association shall gradually decrease the content of the phosphorus in detergents
- ❖ From 2005 members of Association shall produce only phosphate-free detergents
- ❖ Members of Association shall label phosphate-free detergents
- ❖ The Ministry of the Environment can impose to the Association a penalty of 1 million Czech Krowns (approximately 30 thousand EURO) in the case of breach of the Agreement



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Weight balance of phosphates released from detergents in the CZ in 1994 - 2003



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Meeting of the aim of Voluntary Agreement

- ❖ In 2004 the content of phosphorus in detergents was 1679 t/y
(i. e. approximately 0.17kg/person/y)
- ❖ Since 1st of January 2005 the members of the association produce and/or sell only phosphate free-detergents

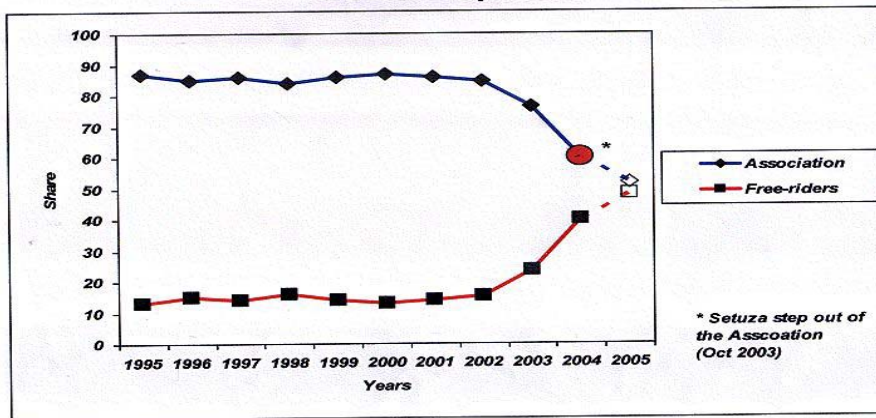


Constraints to achieve better situation in waters

- ❖ Setuza, a.s. stepped out of the Association in 2003
- ❖ Increase of number of phosphate containing detergents from other producers than Association members
- ❖ In 2004 the share of such producers was about 40%, in 2005 about 50%



Development of Share of the Members of the Detergent Association and Free-riders in the Czech Republic





Solution

- ❖ Amendment to the Ministry of the Environment Regulation No.221/2004 stipulating the list of dangerous substances and dangerous chemical substances and means introduction of which into the market, distribution or use is prohibited or limited
- ❖ The Amendment entered into force on 1st of July 2006
- ❖ The measure is in line with the EC Regulation No. 684/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the 31st March 2004, Art.14, 2nd paragraph
- ❖ The Voluntary Agreement has not been repealed, it is further valid especially from the point of view of public relations and awareness raising



Provisions

- ❖ Detergents with the phosphorus content higher than 0.5% by weight shall not be put on the market from the 1st of July 2006
- ❖ Such detergents shall not be put into circulation from the 1st of October 2006
- ❖ The Regulation includes requirements for biodegradability of surfactants and restrictions for priority substances including substances which can occur in detergents
- ❖ Supervision Czech Trade Inspection, Czech Environmental Inspection, Regional Authorities,
- ❖ Possible penalty for violence of the prescription is 5 million Czech Crowns (approximately 170 000 EURO)



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Thank you for your attention



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