

**ETHANOL IS SAFE,  
EFFECTIVE &  
INDISPENSABLE**

**A·I·S·E**  
since 1952

## Why we use ethanol

Ethyl alcohol ("ethanol") is an organic chemical compound widely used for consumer and professional products.

**The first choice in the healthcare sector!** The most effective disinfectant against healthcare-associated infections which cause 90,000 deaths (EU) and cost €7 billion annually.

**The ultimate germ fighter!** The most effective substance to fight a broad spectrum of harmful organisms from bacteria to non-enveloped viruses like polio. Ethanol was the primary substance to fight SARS-CoV-2 due to its broad availability.

**The hygiene hero!** A vital ingredient in various disinfecting products used at home and in healthcare, the food and pharmaceutical industries to keep surfaces hygienic, work environments safe and break the chain of infection.

**The versatile warrior!** Beyond biocides, an important solvent used in household applications like multi-purpose spray cleaners, cosmetics, medicines and food.

**A sustainable option!** Safe for the environment: ethanol can come from renewable sources, is fully biodegradable, leaves no residue, evaporates quickly and is generally more sustainable than other options.

## What's at stake?

The EU Commission and European Chemical Agency (ECHA) are considering reclassifying ethanol as a carcinogenic and reproductive toxicant ("CMR") in proposals under the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) and the Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP).

## What's the consequence?

A CMR classification would mean a *de facto* ban on the use of ethanol in essential biocidal products like hand and surface disinfectants that control the spread of infection among people and in industrial processes. This would have massive negative consequences not only on European industry but on public health in society as a whole.



# We disinfect with ethanol safely every day

- **In hospitals** > ethanol-based hand and surface disinfectants safeguard patients' health
- **In food processing** > we rely on a safe food chain from the farm to the factory and deli counter
- **In public transport** > passengers touch door handles, handrails and ticket machines without risk.

## A key ingredient in:

Hand disinfectants | Surface disinfectants | Cleaning products | Insect repellents

**"Ethanol is essential medicine in preventing healthcare-associated infections."**

*The World Health Organisation's global guidelines for hand hygiene*



## A.I.S.E. calls on the European authorities to:

1. **Recognise the crucial role of ethanol** in biocidal products for infection prevention and control; maintain its classification based on its real-world, biocidal use; take realistic exposure scenarios into consideration rather than comparison to alcohol consumption
2. **Fully assess the consequences of reclassifying** ethanol on public health, healthcare costs and economic stability with a thorough impact assessment; to provide a clear understanding of potential ramifications to guide informed decisions
3. **Demonstrate their commitment to simplifying** legislation and supporting competitiveness in Europe; avoid an unjustified reclassification that would negatively impact EU industry without benefits for citizens or the environment.



[www.aise.eu/ethanol](http://www.aise.eu/ethanol)

A promotional graphic for ethanol as an active ingredient. It features the A.I.S.E. logo at the top left and the IHO logo at the top right. Below the logos is the text "Ethanol as an active ingredient" and "Effective, safe, indispensable". The graphic includes several small images: a bottle of ethanol, hands being washed, and hands cleaning a surface. At the bottom right, there are logos for HC, KC, BC, and FBA.