



Consumer Guidance Society of India

The Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 (Ref. No. Bom 33/1966 GBBSD 04/04/1966) &

The Bombay Public Trusts Act XXIX of 1950 (Reg. No. F – 1381 (Bom) 20/05/1966)

India's First NGO in the Consumer Sector: Established in 1966

Value for Price, People and the Environment

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HAND SANITIZER TESTING REPORT (JULY-AUGUST 2021)

CGSI right from its inception in 1966 routinely carries out massive exercises primarily aimed to check the quality of various products supplied to consumers in Greater Mumbai. CGSI conducts such studies to create awareness on the actual market conditions among consumers and the relevant Food and Drugs Administration authorities.

Present study is on “Hand Sanitizers” available in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane, State of Maharashtra. We have tested hand sanitizer sample purchased from the market and tested the alcohol contents as per claims made on the products.

You all are aware that had CGSI carried out “Gas Chromatography” testing of over 120 Hand Sanitizer samples in nationally accredited laboratory in August 2020. We carried out the test to find out as to whether the hand sanitizer market selling in the open market complies with the FAD standard requirements / LABEL CLAIMS or not and the results analyzed and a brief collated conclusive report of the tests carried out was published. (Published Report is available in our website www.cgsiindia.org.)

In July-August 2021 we repeated the testing (on 23 available sample brands) to check out the current claims and its compliance to FDA standard requirements. The results are collated and report given below for your perusal and understanding.

We are all aware that the best way to prevent spread of infections and to reduce the risk of getting sick is to wash our hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is even more essential specially before eating or after coughing, sneezing or after going to the toilet. If in case soap and water is unavailable, only then it is advisable to use hand sanitizers that contain at least 60% alcohol. Moreover, one important point to note is that, there is no scientific evidence that antimicrobial wash products are more effective than plain soap and water.

Most retail stores and pharmacies sell hand sanitizers, however, due to public health emergency posed by COVID-19, many unscrupulous manufacturers have entered this business to make quick money and take advantage of the scary pandemic situation.

Hand sanitizers are over-the-counter (OTC) drugs regulated by FDA and all formulations should comply with FDA's OTC drug review conditions and manufactured under the conditions in FDA's policy. It is also important to mention that consumers should ensure that they follow the warning prescriptions mentioned in the label. The drug facts label should mention details of the ingredients in the product under sale. All OTC drugs must list the date of manufacture and expiry confirming its stability and safety for use. Store hand sanitizers in a cool place and out of reach of little children as even an ingestion can cause alcohol poisoning. Non-alcoholic based products are not effective against COVID-19.

Sanitizers containing TOXIC METHANOL (a primary alcohol) do not qualify as an ingredient on the label as it is a banned item. Sale of natural ethanol is strictly regulated and so impossible to obtain without alcohol permit. Denatured synthetic alcohols although available without permit or regulatory compliance are however very expensive. Some manufacturers to get over these problems avoid using ethyl alcohol and instead use TOXIC METHYL ALCOHOL as replacement. Unscrupulous manufacturers could use branded container packing for marketers to sell spurious methanol-based sanitizers.

Methanol, also known as methyl alcohol, carbinol, wood alcohol or wood spirits, is an industrial chemical compound with chemical formula CH_3OH and easily available at almost half the price of government-controlled ethanol. Methanol is the simplest alcohol, is light, volatile, colourless, flammable, **POISONOUS** liquid with a distinctive odour that is somewhat milder and sweeter than ethanol (ethyl alcohol). Methanol is frequently used as a denaturant additive for ethanol manufactured for industrial uses, this addition of a poison economically exempts industrial ethanol from the rather significant 'liquor' taxes it attracts as a levy as it is the essence of all potable alcoholic beverages.

Methanol is intoxicating but not directly poisonous. It is toxic by its breakdown (toxication), by the enzyme alcohol dehydrogenase in the liver by forming formic acid and formaldehyde which **CAUSE BLINDNESS by destruction of the optic nerve**. It enters the body by ingestion, inhalation, or absorption through the skin. Though it is miscible with water, methanol is very hard to wash off the skin. Methyl alcohol is a de-fatting agent and may cause skin to become dry and cracked. Skin absorption can occur; symptoms may parallel inhalation exposure. Continued exposure may cause eye lesions.

Once absorbed into the body, it eliminates very slowly. Symptoms of overexposure may include headache, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, blurred vision, blindness, coma, and death. A person may get better but then worse again up to 30 hours later. Persons with pre-existing skin disorders or eye problems or impaired liver or kidney function may be more susceptible to the effects of the substance. Dangerous dose levels will build in the body on regular exposure to methanol vapours or liquid methanol without skin protection.

The initial symptoms of methanol exposure are usually less severe than the symptoms resulting from the ingestion of a similar quantity of ethyl alcohol. Once the initial symptoms have passed, a second set of symptoms arises 10–30 hours after the initial exposure to methanol: blurring or **COMPLETE LOSS OF VISION, TOGETHER WITH ACIDOSIS**. These symptoms result from the accumulation of toxic levels of formate in the bloodstream, and may progress to **DEATH BY RESPIRATORY FAILURE**.

About CGSI:

CGSI, the pioneer consumer organization founded in 1966 has been working for the protection of consumer interests for the past five decades.

CGSI runs the Maharashtra State Consumer Helpline, an outsourced service by the Department of Consumer Protection, Government of Maharashtra and the Department of Consumer Affairs, Dept of Consumer Affairs, Government of India Its Consumer Complaints Redressal Wing receives grievances from consumers which the legal aid arm addresses on a weekly basis.

If a valid complaint is received, as a practice, CGSI's Consumer Complaints Redressal wing takes the next step. A letter is written to the concerned company/party to solve the matter amicably with the complainant. Failing which, the legal arm guides the complainant to move forward with legal remedies. It is a complete consultation and guidance session where each complainant is addressed personally with a token processing fee for the service.

CGSI's other activities include: Consumer education, conducting talks and exhibitions to spread consumer awareness among urban poor and rural areas, testing consumer products and publication of a bi-monthly magazine 'Keemat'.

For further information and details, please contact Dr. M.S. Kamath, Hon. Secretary, CGSI at 9820455858 or email: dr.m.s.kamath@gmail.com

HAND SANITIZER TESTING REPORT SUMMARY (AUGUST 2021)

HAND SANITIZERS TESTED (AUGUST 2021)	TOTAL	%
TOTAL SAMPLES	23	100
Branded Packing	23	
PRODUCT NOT COMPLYING TO DECLARED LABEL SPECIFICATIONS (1 sample had wrong label claims having Ethanol instead of Propanol)	5	21.74
PRODUCT COMPLYING TO DECLARED LABEL SPECIFICATIONS	17	73.91
SAMPLES CONTAINING TOXIC METHANOL AND HARMFUL FOR CONSUMER USE	1	04.35

HAND SANITIZERS CONTAINING TOXIC METHANOL (1 Nos.)

Claimed Value	Results Obtained	Name of Product	Company	Qty in ml	MRP	Dt. of. Mfg.	FDA License No
Alcohol 80 %	Ethanol-34.76 % v/v & Methanol 39.43 % v/v	Hand sanitizer	Cleano	60	39	Apr-21	6/25/2274

HAND SANITIZERS NOT AS PER COMPANY CLAIMS (5 Nos.)

(Poor quality and adulterated)

Claimed Value	Results Obtained	Name of Product	Company	Qty in ml	MRP	Dt. of Mfg.	FDA License No
Alcohol 70 %	Ethanol-55.85%w/w- IPA 6.42%w/w	Combat Hand Cleaqnsging Gel	Vistara	30	0	Mar-21	MHR-01
Denatured Ethanol (80% w/w)	Ethanol 48.49 % w/w	Lovely	Bisleri	100	65	Jun-21	MH/103438
Denatured Ethanol (80% v/v)	Ethanol 62.79 % v/v	Sandalwood Hand Cleaser	BeautiSoul	100	55	May-21	MH/102554
Denatured Ethanol (66%)_IPA 4 %	Ethanol-49.19%v/v- IPA 0.29%v/v	Hand Cleansing gel	VITFE	100	50	Nov-20	MH/102510
IPA 65 % v/v	Ethanol 59 % v/v	WASHEN	SHREE INDUSTRIED	500	575	Mar-20	SIMECEO1

HAND SANITIZERS COMPLYING TO COMPANY CLAIMS & DECLARED SPECIFICATIONS (17 Nos.)

Name of Product	Company
HAND SANITIZER	Dr. Kiara's
Instant Hand Rub	AVESTA
Life	Apollo Hand Sanitizer
Fresh Hand Sanitizer (Strawberry)	Coloressence
Fresh Hand Sanitizer (Orange)	Coloressence
Hanclean	Goran
Sani fast	Herbal Hand Sanitizer
Ethanol IP	Savlon
Instant Alcoholic Hand Rub	GEAR
Nine Hand Sanitizer gel	Rossari Boitech LTD
Margo Hand Sanitizer	Jyothy Labs LTD
Safe Kind Hand Sanitizer	herbal Hand Sanitizer
GermiX	Patanjali
Godrej Protekt inst HS	Allkind Healthcare
Solve inst HS	RBPSSK LTD
CIPHANDS Antiseptic HS	BIONEXT PHARMA LTD
KRVI Inst HS	KRVI HERBALA PVT LTD