

# Global Awareness-raising Campaign on Laundry Detergent Capsules/packets

16-23 March 2015

#LaundrySafe



## SAFETY ALERT



Over 16 000\* cases of people (mostly children) exposed to chemicals contained in the laundry capsules/packets on a yearly basis globally

Laundry detergent liquid capsules/packets are designed to contain concentrated detergent for single use. The content of the capsules, protected by a membrane, is released once it comes in contact with the moisture during a washing.

Yet, laundry detergent liquid capsules/packets are small, tactile and often colourful, which makes them

attractive to children, especially toddlers, who are tempted to put them in the mouth or play with them. A laundry liquid capsule can burst in a child's hand, especially when it is wet or moist. It can also rapidly dissolve with moisture and may burst in a child's mouth in as little as ten seconds, which can cause severe injuries.

## WHAT MAY HAPPEN

In case of **contact with the eyes:**

conjunctivitis, pain in the eye, eye irritation

In case of **ingestion:**

severe vomiting, coughing, respiratory disorders, nausea, drowsiness and rash

In case of **contact with the skin:**

rash, skin irritation, chemical burn

\*Aggregated number of exposures to chemicals contained in laundry detergent capsules registered in the most recent year of data available (2012 or 2013 or 2014) in the following countries: USA, Japan, Germany, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, Italy, France, Spain, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, Portugal, Korea, Belgium, Ireland and Australia.

# SAFETY MESSAGES FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

## SAFE STORAGE



Store these products up high, out of reach and out of sight of children



If stored in lower accessible cabinets/cupboards, these should be secured with child resistant locks



Keep the capsules/packets in their original container, fully closed between uses

## SAFE USE



Carefully read the labels on the packaging



Do not use the capsules/packets while children are close by and do not allow or invite children to manipulate them



Never pierce or break laundry capsules/packets



Do not leave the capsules/packets outside their container



Close the container lid properly after every use

## WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF EXPOSURE



If the capsule/packet is put in the mouth, rinse the child's mouth and face thoroughly



Do NOT induce vomiting



If a child has capsule liquid close to eyes or on hands, rinse carefully with plenty of water



Call a doctor, or a Poison Control Centre or go to the medical emergency department

## GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

