

By-products and waste definition: the case of crude glycerine

The current provisions on by-products and the waste definition hinder the transition towards a circular economy



Valuable materials are often classified as waste by national authorities, preventing the development of production processes that seek to optimise the utilisation of valuable resources.

*Crude glycerine** is a by-product that the chemical industry uses as a raw material to manufacture several products, such as cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. However, several national authorities classify crude glycerine as waste because it needs to be refined before being used for consumer applications. This classification imposes administrative and financial burdens that discourage investments in existing business practices aimed at keeping the value of materials in the economy for as long as possible.



The current Waste Framework Directive impedes further use of *crude glycerine*

Key recommendations

Amend the provisions on by-products under the Waste Framework Directive to ensure that no valuable materials, such as crude glycerine, are classified as waste.

Assess, under the REFIT programme, to which extent the current definition of waste is fit for the transition towards a circular economy.

*Glycerine is a by-product of saponified, hydrolyzed or transesterified fats and oils. After being recovered in a crude state, it is refined through distillation.

Glycerine is used in numerous applications: as a humectant and an emollient in cosmetics, personal care products and household products. - In several pharmaceutical applications and in numerous food applications.

For more information please contact:
Steven Van de Broeck, HSSE manager, Cefic,
+32 2.676.72.85 or sva@cefic.be.

About Cefic

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European Chemical Industry Council - Cefic aisbl
Avenue E. van Nieuwenhuysse 4 B-1160 Brussels Belgium
Tel. +32.2.676.72.11 mail@cefic.be www.cefic.org

