

STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Child Care Regulation Interpretation 13-01

To: Local Public Health Agencies
From: Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability
Date: September 4, 2013
Subject: Implementation Requirements (Interpretive Memo) Regarding the Use of Bleach in Child Care Facilities

Bleach Used as a Sanitizer (Food Contact Surfaces / Toys)

Clorox and other bleach manufacturers have changed the percentage of hypochlorite (the active ingredient) in bleach products from 6% to 8.25%. Bleach is still an approved sanitizer for food contact surfaces but the increased percentage changes the mixing instructions to achieve the approved concentration of 50 to 200 parts per million (ppm). Please refer to the following table for mixing instructions:

| Concentration (ppm) | Amount of Bleach (8.25%) | Amount of Water |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 50 | ½ tsp | 1 gallon (128 oz) |
| 50 | ⅛ tsp | 1 quart (32 oz) |
| 50 | ⅙ tsp | 1 pint (16 oz) |
| 100 | 1 tsp | 1 gallon (128 oz) |
| 100 | ¼ tsp | 1 quart (32 oz) |
| 100 | ⅛ tsp | 1 pint (16 oz) |
| 200 | 2 tsp | 1 gallon (128 oz) |
| 200 | ½ tsp | 1 quart (32 oz) |
| 200 | ¼ tsp | 1 pint (16 oz) |

Bleach Used as a Disinfectant (High Hazard Body Fluids)

The concentration and contact time for Clorox and other bleach products used as a disinfectant differ from previous guidance given and what is stated in the *Rules and Regulations Governing the Health and Sanitation of Child Care Facilities* (effective May 30, 2005). The current U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration and labeled instructions for Clorox used as a disinfectant requires a concentration of 2,400 ppm, a five minute contact time, and a rinse step. All cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting products shall be used in accordance to the labeled instructions. If child care facilities are using bleach as a disinfectant it must be used in accordance with the labeled instructions. For some facilities that do not use a disinfectant on a regular basis this change may not have a significant impact. For other facilities however this solution may no longer be practical for use particularly if they serve infants and toddlers that require diaper changing. Please note that bleach is not the only approved disinfectant that can be used in child care facilities.

Other Disinfectants

Manufacturers of disinfectants with active ingredients such as quaternary ammonium or hydrogen peroxide also make approved products. To determine if a disinfectant is approved for use in a child care facility the following shall be verified:

- The chemical has an EPA registration number.
- The chemical is a hospital grade disinfectant and is effective against:
 - *Salmonella choleraesuis(enterica)*;
 - *Staphylococcus aureus*; and,
 - *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.
- The use of the chemical must be in accordance with the EPA labeled instructions including:
 - Concentration;
 - Contact Time;
 - Method; and,
 - Surfaces.

For more information please refer to the attached guidance document or contact your LAP representative.