



SURFACE VEHICLE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

J3260™

DEC2022

Issued

2022-12

Selection and Use of Cleaners and Disinfectants for
Vehicle Interior Surfaces and Exterior Touch Points

RATIONALE

Due to the variety of information and misinformation available with regards to cleaning and disinfecting products for use on vehicle interior surfaces and exterior touch points, this recommended practice has been created to provide guidance on acceptable products for use on these surfaces—both in terms of product effectiveness, and in terms of prevention of damage to those surfaces.

FOREWORD

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic during March 2020 led many people to be concerned about cleaning and disinfecting surfaces to prevent the spread of disease. In April of that year, a group of automotive professionals began looking into cleaning products, cleaning methods, and disinfectants that could be used before, during, and after servicing a vehicle in a repair shop. At the same time, the U.S. EPA was investigating disinfectants that could be used to kill the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

In June 2020, MACS (the Mobile Air Conditioning Society, now known as the Mobile Air Climate Systems Association), published an MSR (MACS Service Report) detailing what was known at the time; both the concerns of those involved in the industry and the potential solutions for cleaning and disinfecting vehicles.

In the following months, many organizations (including most vehicle OEMs and Tier1 suppliers) began publishing documents related to proper cleaning and disinfecting methods and products that could be used. Product experts within these companies carefully studied the various products and methods available and made recommendations based on what could safely and successfully be used on their products (their vehicles). It was proposed that SAE form a group to consolidate and generalize the available information for use by the industry as a whole, which led to the formation of the Cabin Disinfection Practices Committee (TEVCDPC) and the work that produced this recommended practice.

1. SCOPE

- 1.1 This recommended practice is intended to provide general guidelines for the selection and proper use of cleaning and disinfecting product characteristics acceptable for use on vehicle interiors and exterior touch points (cleaning before disinfecting being best practice in general for vehicles, as with other situations), and the effectiveness of the disinfecting products with certain characteristics, as well as indicating the product characteristics that will not cause damage to those surfaces.
- 1.2 This recommended practice deals only with the effect of the cleaners and disinfectants on the materials of construction used in vehicles and does not address the efficacy of the fluid or approval to use these products in various locales. For example, in the United States of America (USA), any fluid purporting to have disinfecting or sanitizing properties must be registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Similarly in the European Union (EU) all active substances in any biocidal product used to treat or contained in an article must be approved for use. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure that the product meets the regulations of the locales where it will be used.

SAE Executive Standards Committee Rules provide that: "This report is published by SAE to advance the state of technical and engineering sciences. The use of this report is entirely voluntary, and its applicability and suitability for any particular use, including any patent infringement arising therefrom, is the sole responsibility of the user."

SAE reviews each technical report at least every five years at which time it may be revised, reaffirmed, stabilized, or cancelled. SAE invites your written comments and suggestions.

Copyright © 2022 SAE International

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of SAE.

TO PLACE A DOCUMENT ORDER: Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada)
Tel: +1 724-776-4970 (outside USA)
Fax: 724-776-0790
Email: CustomerService@sae.org
http://www.sae.org

SAE WEB ADDRESS:

Full document details: SAE J3260_202212

For more information on this standard, visit
https://www.sae.org/standards/content/J3260_202212/

Documents

Document Sharing Hub

2. REFERENCES

2.1 Applicable Documents

The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise indicated, the latest issue of SAE publications shall apply.

2.1.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE International, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or +1 724-776-4970 (outside USA), www.sae.org.

AMS1453 Disinfectant Cleaner for Aircraft Interior, General Purpose Liquid

AMS1550 Cleaner, Water Base, Aircraft Interior, Hard Surface Materials

2.1.2 ANSI/ASHRAE Publications

Copies of these documents are available online at <https://webstore.ansi.org/>.

ANSI Z400.1/Z129.1 Hazardous Workplace Chemicals - Hazard Evaluation and Safety Data Sheet and Precautionary Labeling Preparation

2.1.3 MACS Service Report, June 2020 Issue. Available from the Mobile Air Climate Systems Association (MACS), 225 S Broad Street, Lansdale, PA 19446, <https://macsmobileairclimate.org/>.

2.1.4 EPA "List N," Available from United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004, <https://www.epa.gov/>.

3. ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS

ANSI: American National Standards Institute

ASHRAE: American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers

CDC: United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

COVID: Coronavirus disease

EC: European Commission

EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency

EU: European Union

LED: light emitting diode

mL: milliliter

oz: ounce

OSHA: United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration

PPE: personal protective equipment

ppm: parts per million

QAC: quaternary ammonium compounds

SDC: silver dihydrogen citrate

UV: ultraviolet

UVA: ultraviolet light in the range of 315 to 400 nm

UVB: ultraviolet light in the range of 280 to 315 nm

UVC: ultraviolet light in the range of 100 to 280 nm

°F: degrees Fahrenheit

°C: degrees Celsius

4. GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS AND DEFINITIONS

4.1 Cleaners

- 4.1.1 The cleaner shall not be hazardous under proper use and storage as defined in OSHA regulations.
- 4.1.2 Use cleaners recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. Test cleaners and disinfectants in an inconspicuous location before wider use on interior surfaces.
- 4.1.3 Cleaning with a household cleaner that contains soap or detergent reduces the amount of germs on surfaces and decreases risk of infection from surfaces. In most situations, cleaning alone removes most virus particles on surfaces.
- 4.1.4 Dishwashing soap may be an acceptable cleaner for use on most surfaces.
- 4.1.5 Closed cell materials, vinyl, leather, and smooth leathers all may require different cleaners.
- 4.1.6 Hard surfaces and non-hard surfaces (fabrics, leather, carpet) may require different cleaners.
- 4.1.7 Be particularly careful about which cleaner or disinfectant product is used on electronic controls, monitors, and/or touchscreens. Damage (such as clouding) to the viewing surface could occur.

4.2 Disinfectants

- 4.2.1 Use a disinfectant product from the U.S. EPA's "List N."
- 4.2.2 Many products contain alcohol because it dries quickly. Care should be taken in use.
- 4.2.3 When used to kill a virus, contact time is important. It is difficult to achieve the required contact time with soft surfaces. Follow instructions on the product label.
- 4.2.4 The composition of the disinfectant shall be optional with the manufacturer, but should contain water, surfactants, disinfectants, and inhibitors to produce a product meeting the requirements of 4.6.