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Release	Monday, April 27 2020 (6 pages)	Department	Injury Information Monitoring Team, Department of Consumer Injury Information		
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Not-for-human-use sterilizers and sanitizers sold as hand sanitizers

- Buy hand sanitizers marked as quasi-drugs and use sterilizers and sanitizers for designated purposes -

Personal hygiene is key to preventing COVID-19 infections, meaning spikes in demands for hand sanitizers. Consumers are advised to pay particular attention to cases where sanitizers and sterilizers not for human use are marked and sold as hand sanitizers.

The Korea Consumer Agency (President Lee Hee Sook) monitored the effectiveness of hand sanitizers sold online. Finding part of 'disinfectants and sterilizers for instruments' and 'disinfectants (biocides)' were marked as hand sanitizers suitable for human use*, the agency requested improvement measures.

* Misleading marks as hand sanitizers: 5 products classified as disinfectants and sterilizers for instruments (48 cases) and 6 products classified as biocides (429 cases).

※ Disinfectants and sterilizers for instruments and biocides are used for sterilization and disinfection of cooking equipment/containers/packages and sterilization and disinfection of living spaces, respectively, and should never be used for the human body.

The agency also found that some gel-type 'hand-cleansing agents' containing ethanol* were marked as if they had sterilizing and disinfecting effects without being approved as quasi-drugs**. These products are used

in a similar way as hand sanitizers*** in that they do not need to be rinsed off after use, but their medical efficacy is not guaranteed.

* Product marketed as 'hand sanitizers,' 'hand cleaners,' or 'clean gel.'

** Misleading markings for disinfecting/sterilizing effects: 6 'gel-type hand-cleansing products' (135 cases).

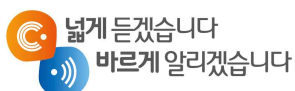
*** 'Hand sanitizers' should be approved as quasi-drugs under the Designation of the Scope of Quasi-Drugs (Ministry of Food and Drug Safety Notification No. 2019-86); without quasi-drug approval, product should not be marked as having disinfecting/sterilizing effects for the human body.

The Korea Consumer Agency advised online sellers that used statements that may mislead consumers to take them as hand sanitizers to make voluntary improvement measures, and the sellers took the agency's request to take improvement measures* including changing product markings.

***Markings improved or sales suspended for 17 products (612 cases)** (measures taken in cooperation with online sales intermediaries, as of April 23 2020).

The agency also plans to report to the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety products in violation of regulations, for example statements on medical efficacy indicated on product packages and omissions of required labeling information.

The Korea Consumer Agency asked consumers to, when buying hand sanitizers, check if products are approved as quasi-drugs and use sterilizers and sanitizers for clearly marked purposes only.



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※ The Korea Consumer Agency listens to citizens' opinions and suggestions related to the agency operations on its citizen suggestion system.

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