

Glycerine Buyer's Spec Sheet

Synergy Healthcare Australia
Bulk ingredients, Melbourne and Sydney

Everything a buyer needs to specify, check and store glycerine (humectant 422) without surprises. Print it, then hand it to whoever signs the purchase order.

1 One molecule, many names

CHEMICAL NAME

Glycerol

TRADE SPELLINGS

Glycerine, glycerin

ADDITIVE NUMBER

422 (E422)

CAS NUMBER

56-81-5

Australian label wording you will see: "humectant (422)", "humectant (glycerol)", "vegetable glycerine" or "glycerin [plant derived]".

2 Pick the grade for the job

Crude glycerol

60 to 80%

By-product of biodiesel and soap making.

Feedstock for refiners only. Never an ingredient.

NOT FOR FORMULATION

Technical or industrial

varies

Partly refined. Cheaper, with looser limits.

Resins, antifreeze, cleaning products. Keep out of food, pharma and skin care.

INDUSTRIAL USE ONLY

USP, BP or EP grade

99.5%+ typical

Meets a pharmacopoeia monograph, including identity and impurity tests.

Oral liquids, suppositories, topical products, and the safest default for food.

STOCKED BY SYNERGY

Food grade (422)

refined

Refined glycerine meeting food additive specifications.

Bars, wraps, cakes, icings, flavour carriers, dried fruit.

ASK FOR FOOD DOCUMENTATION

Cosmetic grade

refined

Low odour and colour for skin and hair products.

Creams, serums, cleansers, toothpaste.

STOCKED BY SYNERGY

Reagent or ACS grade

analytical

Tight analytical limits for laboratory work.

Cryoprotectant for bacterial stocks at minus 80°C, buffers.

STOCKED BY SYNERGY

3 Origin options to specify up front

Vegetable or plant-derived

Needed for vegan claims. Ask which oil: palm, coconut, soy or rapeseed.

Palm with RSPO

Required if your brand or retailer has a sustainable palm policy.

Halal or kosher

Only with a current certificate covering the exact product and site.

4 The humectant line-up on Australian shelves

84

products list glycerol (422), the clear default

21

use maltitol (965), every one a protein bar

19

use sorbitol (420); 14 of them pair it with 422

5

use propylene glycol (1520), all of them cakes

5 Five questions for your supplier

1. Which monograph does this lot meet, and can I see the full lot COA before dispatch?
2. Is every lot tested for DEG and EG, and by which method?
3. Which oil or fat is the glycerine made from, and is that documented?
4. Who is the original manufacturer, and has the product been repacked?
5. What pack sizes, lead times and retest period apply?

Check it, store it, sell it

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6 What a proper COA shows

- ☐ Product name, grade and the monograph it meets (USP, BP or EP)
- ☐ Lot number, manufacture date and retest or expiry date
- ☐ Assay result for that lot (refined grades typically 99.5% or higher)
- ☐ Diethylene glycol (DEG) and ethylene glycol (EG) results, each at or below 0.10%
- ☐ Water content, colour and identity test results
- ☐ Name and address of the original manufacturer
- ☐ Origin statement: vegetable, animal or synthetic, plus palm and RSPO status

7 Red flags

- ! "Typical values" instead of results for your lot
- ! No DEG and EG test, or a test without a stated limit
- ! Only the distributor's name, with the manufacturer hidden
- ! A vegan or palm-free claim with no supporting certificate
- ! Technical grade offered at a price that looks too good for USP

8 Handling and storage

Keep it sealed

Glycerine pulls water from the air, so an open container slowly dilutes itself.

Pack sizes

Bulk glycerine usually ships in 250 kg drums or 1,000 kg IBCs.

Mind the temperature

It thickens noticeably in a cold warehouse. Allow for slower pumping and dosing in winter.

Containers

Steel or HDPE drums are standard. Keep lids closed and labels intact for traceability.

9 What 223 Australian labels show

74%

of protein bars list glycerol or 422

92%

of products using a common humectant choose 422

76%

print the name (glycerol, glycerine) instead of the code

19%

state where the glycerine came from

Synergy Healthcare analysis of 223 protein bars, muesli bars, cakes, wraps and dried fruit products sold in Australia, Open Food Facts ingredient lists retrieved 19 October 2026.

Glycerine with the paperwork done.

BP and USP, cosmetic and reagent grades from Melbourne and Sydney, with a COA on every order.

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