

Is there a way to make “greener,” more informed decisions while purchasing products in my laboratory?

Yes. Thermo Scientific™ products are part of a program run by the nonprofit My Green Lab™ (mygreenlab.org) that provides an environmental assessment label for laboratory products (Figure 1). The ACT label is an environmental assessment tool for laboratory products that emphasizes accountability (A), consistency (C), and transparency (T) around manufacturing, energy, water use, packaging, and end-of-life disposal. The ACT label makes it easy to

compare and select products that are environmentally friendly. It is easy to read and provides the consumer an awareness tool for purchasing products for the laboratory. ACT labels can be used to compare products before making a buying decision or to evaluate the impact of a product currently in use.

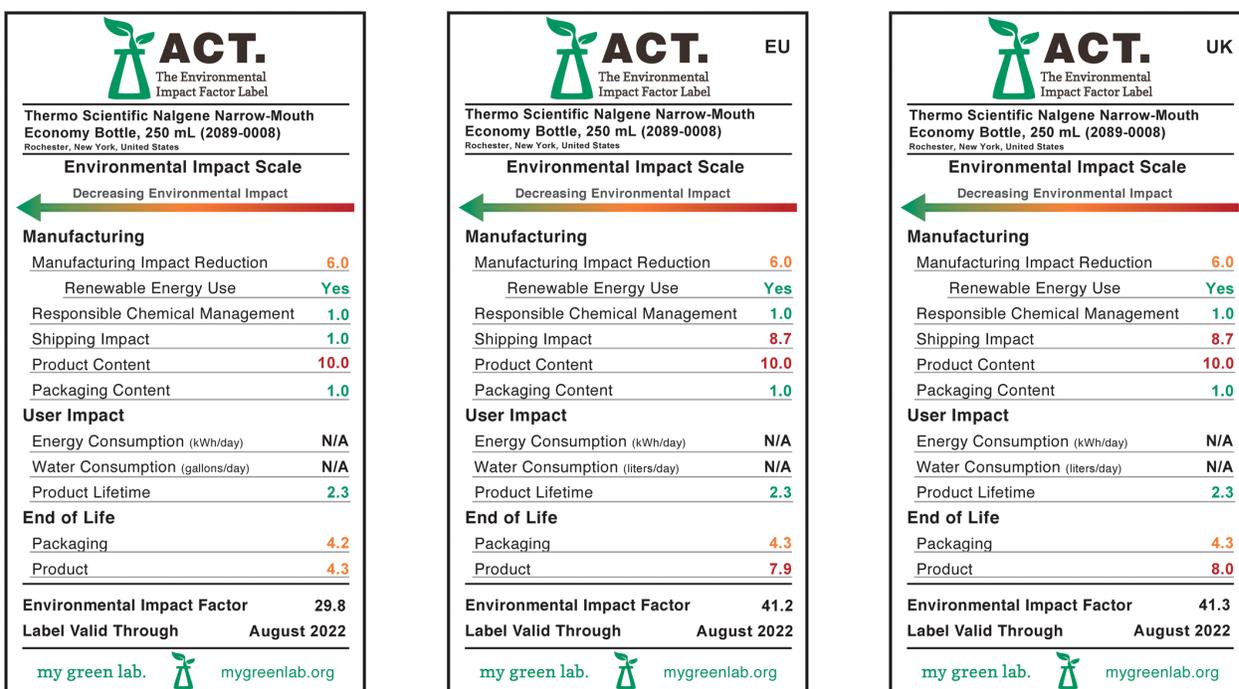


Figure 1. United States (US), European Union (EU), and United Kingdom (UK) ACT labels for the Thermo Scientific™ Nalgene™ Narrow-Mouth Economy Bottle (Cat. No. 2089-0008).

What is an ACT label?

The ACT label is similar to a nutrition label, but for lab products. Products are assessed and scored on a number of different environmental impact factors (EIFs) such as product recyclability, energy use, and sustainable manufacturing practices. Each EIF is rated on a scale of 1 to 10 and a total score for the product is generated (Figure 2). For the assessment, data on the manufacturing, shipping, use, and end-of-life for products were supplied. The data were independently audited by a third party, Sustainability Made Simple, and then verified and published by My Green Lab.

Who developed the ACT label?

The criteria for the ACT label were selected through input from scientists, sustainability directors, procurement specialists, and manufacturers to provide a comprehensive product labeling program for life sciences products. The goal is to assess a large-enough number of products to enable comparisons of similar products and ultimately to drive more informed purchasing decisions.

How do I read an ACT label?

Reading the ACT label is simple: the lower the score, the lower the impact on the environment. Most categories are rated on a scale of 1–10 (Figure 2).

In 2020, My Green Lab introduced region-specific labels for the EU and UK in an effort to expand the program. The labels were originally designed for the US. Because the scores for shipping impact and end-of-life disposal are dependent on where the product is made and then sold and used, the EU and UK labels will differ in those scores (Figure 1).

Where do I find an ACT label?

The ACT label is a virtual label that is published on the **My Green Lab** website as well as on the **Thermo Fisher Scientific website**.

Why do ACT labels matter?

Thermo Fisher is demonstrating its commitment to sustainability through participating in the My Green Lab program and bringing the ACT label to the laboratory community for a selection of products. Through inclusion in this program and transparency into the manufacturing procedures necessary to make the program meaningful, these products are paving the way to make sustainable purchasing for laboratories a reality.

Summary

As a purchaser, you can make more environmentally informed purchasing choices for your labware by consulting ACT labels found at **thermofisher.com/actlabel**. By doing so, you become part of the movement driving demand for products to be characterized by ACT labels in support of sustainable purchasing decisions.

Lower score = lower environmental impact



Figure 2. Sliding color scale for ACT label scores. Green indicates the lowest environmental impact and red indicates the highest environmental impact.

Find out more at thermofisher.com/actlabel