



Cosmetics

Free movement of goods is ensured by the harmonisation of technical regulations at European level and, where the legislation is not harmonised, by the principle of “mutual recognition”. Below is information relating to cosmetics.

Scope

‘Cosmetic product’ means any substance or mixture intended to be placed in contact with various external parts of the human body (epidermis, hair system, nails, lips and external genital organs) or with the teeth and the mucous membranes of the oral cavity with a view exclusively or mainly to cleaning them, perfuming them, changing their appearance, protecting them, keeping them in good condition, or correcting body odours.

‘Substance’ means a chemical element and its compounds; they may be natural or the product of a manufacturing process, including any additive required to maintain stability and any impurity from the implemented process, except for any solvents that can be separated without affecting the substance’s stability or alter its composition.

This factsheet does not apply to products covered by:

- Regulation (EU) 2017/745 (medical devices) and Regulation (EU) 2017/746 (in vitro diagnostic medical devices);
- Directive 2001/83/EC (medicinal products for human use), and Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 (medicinal products for human and veterinary use);
- Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 (food products);
- Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 (biocidal products).

Guidance on [borderline products](#) (cosmetics/other legislation).

Regulations

Regulation is harmonised at European level

European regulation

[Regulation \(EC\) No 1223/2009](#) (amended) of 30 November 2009 on cosmetics products

[Regulation \(EU\) No 655/2013](#) of 10 July 2013 laying down common criteria for the justification of claims used in relation to cosmetic products

[A harmonised standard](#) applies to good manufacturing practices: NF EN ISO 22716.

The EU cosmetic products regulations set obligations for economic operators, prescribe technical requirements for substances and products (e.g. lists of prohibited, restricted or authorised substances), impose a requirement to conduct safety assessments for cosmetic products and prohibit animal testing.

[Documents published by the European Commission](#)



French regulation

[French Public Health Code:](#)

- Legislative section – Part V – Book I – Title III – Chapter I: Articles L.5131-1 to L.5131-8
- Regulatory section – Part V – Book I – Title III – Chapter I: Articles R.5131-1 to R.5131-15

[French Consumer Code:](#)

- Legislative section – in particular Articles [L.121-1 et seq.](#) (unfair commercial practices), Article [L.441-1](#) (deception)

For further information:

<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/Publications/Vie-pratique/Fiches-pratiques/les-produits-cosmetiques>

<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/produits-cosmetiques-la-dgccrf-assure-desormais-seule-le-controle-des-produits-et>

Contacts

Regulatory authority

Ministry of Health:

Directorate General for Health (DGS) – External Environment and Chemical Products Bureau – EA 1 - Tel: +33 1 40 56 60 00

Market surveillance authority

Ministry of Economy, Finance, Industrial and Digital Sovereignty:

DGCCRF (Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control): Health Products and Services Bureau – 5B – bureau-5b@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr

DGDDI (Customs): Inspection Policy Bureau – JCF2 – dg-jcf2@douane.finances.gouv.fr

Business federations

[Fédération des entreprises de la beauté](#) (FEBEA)

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[Cosmetic Valley](#)

1 place de la Cathédrale – 28000 Chartres (France)

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[Association de la filière cosmétique COSMED](#)

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Keywords

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