

NATURAL COSMETIC PRODUCTS

(approved by the Committee of Experts on Cosmetic Products, September 2000)

I. INTRODUCTION

“Natural cosmetics“ are a complex and emotional subject. Criticism of consumption, mental attitudes like interactions of body and soul (esotericism), natural healing properties as well as marketing strategies play an important role.

Many cosmetics can be found on the European market, which are referred to as natural cosmetics, although they may contain many ingredients which are not natural ingredient. The use of the term “natural cosmetics” as well as guidelines for the manufacturing, marketing and labelling differ from country to country.

A uniform definition is needed and guidelines for natural cosmetics in Europe need to be established. The goal for establishing such guidelines is to ensure a maximum of safety in using such products and to avoid misleading claims.

II. DESCRIPTION

1. A ‘natural cosmetic product’ means any product which, subject to Paragraphs 6 and 7 consists of natural substances as defined under Paragraphs 2 and 5 and is produced (obtained and processed) as defined under Paragraph 4.

2. Within the meaning of these paragraphs, ‘natural substances’ include any substances of botanical, animal or mineral origin as well as their mixtures.

3. In the choice of basic materials of botanical, mineral and animal origin for cosmetic products in these paragraphs particular attention is paid to making sure no contaminants which cause damage to human health are included. The manufacturer of natural cosmetic products shall especially take into consideration the possible allergenic effects of natural substances in the assessment of the safety for human health.

4. Natural ingredients shall only be obtained and processed by means of physical methods (e.g. extrusion, centrifugation, filtration, distillation, extraction, percolation, adsorptive techniques, freezing, drying), microbiological or enzymatic methods. Microorganisms and enzymes shall exclusively be used in enzymatic and microbiological methods. Extraction may be carried out with water, ethyl alcohol and other appropriate natural derived solvents.

5. Only those natural fragrances whose names and definitions comply with the International ISO 9235 Standard¹ as well as any substances listed in this Standard which have been isolated by physical methods may be used in natural cosmetic products. Synthetically-reconstituted essential oils, nature-identical perfumes and chemically modified natural raw materials shall not be used in perfume compositions which are labelled as being natural.

6. The following preservatives (nature-identical substances) listed in Annex VI Part 1 of the Council Directive 76/768/ECC² may be used on condition that the provision for their use as laid down there are satisfied:

¹ Aromatic Natural Raw Materials - Vocabulary

² Now Annex V of REGULATION (EC) No 1223/2009 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 30 November 2009 on cosmetic products

Benzoic acid and its salts
Propionic acid and its salts
Salicylic acid and its salts
4-Hydroxybenzoic acid, its salts and esters Formic acid
2-Phenoxyethanol
Benzyl alcohol
Sorbic acid

Natural cosmetic products containing any of these preservatives must clearly bear the information 'preserved with' and the name of the preservative near the indication 'natural cosmetic product'.

7. Emulsifiers obtained from the following natural substances by means of hydrolysis, esterification or reesterification may be used to produce natural cosmetic products:

Fats and oils
Waxes
Lecithins
Lanolin
Mono-, oligo-, and polysaccharides
Proteins
Lipoproteins

III. NOMENCLATURE

8. Cosmetic products which satisfy the conditions laid down in this guideline may bear the additional information 'natural cosmetic products' in easily visible and legible lettering.

IV. SAFETY OF NATURAL COSMETIC PRODUCTS

Legislative provisions on cosmetic products in force in the member states of the Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field apply to natural cosmetics.

In particular, they should not "cause damage to human health when applied under normal or reasonably foreseeable conditions of use".

In evaluating the safety of natural cosmetic products, consideration must be given to the most relevant available toxicity data for all ingredients present, including natural ingredients, with particular attention being given to the following considerations:

Natural ingredients are complex mixtures which must be defined with sufficient precision so as to enable the composition and effects of a given ingredient to be identified;

Scientific justification must be given in cases where some of the toxicological data on natural ingredients is unavailable.