

## NOTE

DG SANCO (Commission department responsible for EU policy on food safety and health and for monitoring the implementation of related laws) 16/10/2015

### **Clarification of the absence of European harmonized standard for natural and organic cosmetics**

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Today, there is no European harmonised standard which sets criteria for natural and organic cosmetics. However, it seems that some European certification bodies advertise their integrated standards as the European harmonised standard for natural and organic cosmetics. This practice leads to unfair and misleading information for consumers and disruption of the internal market. Therefore, it cannot be accepted.

Concerning criteria for claims used in relation to cosmetics, the Commission services have been working on the implementation of Article 20 of Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 (EU Cosmetics Regulation).

In this context, DG Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) established in 2010 a working group to look at claims currently used in respect of cosmetic products and to identify some claim categories for which the use of specific common criteria should apply. The group agreed that its first objective was to develop common general criteria for all types of claims used with respect to cosmetic products, including natural and organic claims. Once general criteria are established, the group will consider whether more specific criteria are necessary for natural and organic claims.

It was noted that an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard for natural and organic cosmetics is currently being developed. In order to avoid duplication of the work at the EU and ISO level, the group will take into account the progress on the future ISO standard and will consider whether or not to develop EU specific criteria for natural and organic claims.

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