

## The OF&G Certification Scheme for Cosmetics and Bodycare Products

Organic requirements are in addition to other statutory requirements  
Statutory information is for guidance only and is correct at time of going to print

### Introduction

Cosmetics and body care products include skin and hair care products, decorative cosmetics, perfumes and hygiene products. These products are not part of the food chain and this means that under the European Organic Regulation (EC2092/91), there is currently no legal requirement for them to be organically certified.

However there is a growing demand for organically certified products, so OF&G has created these standards for cosmetics and body care products, in order that Licensees can understand the requirements and use the OF&G logo to demonstrate that the organic status of their bodycare products has been independently verified.

These Standards are based on the EU Organic Regulation (EC2092/91) and the Nordic Ecolabelling Standards.

### Principles

- The entire production, processing and distribution chain should be socially just and ecologically responsible.
- The products should be minimally processed and contain the maximum proportion of organic functional ingredients and the minimum proportion of additives. (Certified wild crafted or wild harvested ingredients are regarded as equivalent to organic ingredients).
- The products should be of high quality and optimal for their purpose.

### In addition:

Genetic Modification - No genetically modified organisms or products derived from them may be used.

Animal Testing - Many ingredients used in cosmetics have been tested on animals in the past. We cannot go back in time and prevent this, but our Standards require that no further testing be done on the ingredients used or finished products, unless required by law.

Labelling - Product labelling must be clear and accurate, so that the buyer can make an informed decision.

Organic requirements - All organic labelling, compositional and processing requirements, as detailed in the OF&G Control Manual apply in principle. However, since these were designed to regulate food and feed products, OF&G may slightly modify or extend them to take account of the different requirements for cosmetics and body care products.

Legal Requirements - There are legal requirements and industry codes of good practice for cosmetics and body care products. These must be complied with in every case. The organic certification requirements are in addition to these requirements, they do not replace them.

### Ingredients and Processes

Organically certified cosmetics and body care products should be made using the maximum proportion of organic ingredients and these should be subject to as little processing as possible. Simple, mainly physical processes such as drying, freezing, pressing and infusion are preferred to those involving chemicals.

Only ingredients essential to the nature of the product are allowed. For example, colours may be used in items such as lipstick or eye shadow but not in those such as cleansers and toners, where there is no functional requirement for colour.

Additives are not generally allowed in organic products but it is recognised that some, such as preservatives, may be necessary for cosmetics because the products have long shelf lives and are subject to varying temperatures. Others may be used as reagents, for example in the saponification of organic raw materials to make soap.

Where the use of additives cannot be avoided, toxicity, biodegradability, origin of source material and allergic potential will be considered before these are approved.

## **Toxicity and Biodegradability Criteria**

The toxicity and biodegradability criteria used by OF&G are adapted from the Nordic Ecolabelling Standards. These apply to all ingredients used and also to any by-products resulting from processes used, whether for the preparation of ingredients or the finished product.

## **Labels**



Approved products may carry the OF&G "Certified Organic" logo or the statement "Certified Organic by Organic Farmers and Growers". If space is very limited, this may be abbreviated to "OF&G Certified Organic".

The statement "Organic Certification UK2" may not be used, because these products are outside the scope of the EU regulation.

There must not be any claim that the organic nature of the product makes it better or healthier than a non-organic product.

## **Application for Organic Certification**

The OF&G Cosmetics and Bodycare Standards and an Application Form can be obtained from our office, or downloaded from the website. (See details below).

It may be useful to read Technical Leaflet 201 (Introduction to Organic Certification for Processors), which explains the inspection and certification process.

It is also necessary to be aware of the requirements for processors laid down in Section 11 of the OF&G Control Manual. This may be accessed on the website or is available in CD or paper format from the office.

Certification is in two stages and a fee is payable at each stage. First we need to review the ingredients and processes used to make the products so that we can advise whether the proposed products are suitable for organic certification. Please complete the application form and send it to OF&G together with details of products to be registered and the appropriate application fee. It is essential that we are given full information at this stage.

(Note: the Application Form (RD191) and Cosmetics and Bodycare Certification Scheme Charges Sheet (RD195) can be obtained from our office, or printed from our Website.)

Once the product specifications have been approved by our Certification Officers, an inspection is arranged, to ensure that the organic integrity of the ingredients and finished products is maintained from the start to the end of the process. A further fee for inspection and certification is payable at this stage.

The inspection report is then reviewed by the Certification Officer and once any non-compliances have been resolved, certification can be awarded. Certification is valid for 12 months and re-inspection is required every 12 months. Further product reviews are only required if ingredients or processes change.

Other products may be submitted for review, during the 12 months interim, and if judged suitable, may be added to the certificate.

## **Further Information:**

Please contact Joanna Gleeson at the OF&G office, details below, if you would like any more information.

## **Organic Farmers and Growers**

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