

LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Cosmetic product labels should contain truthful and accurate information about the cosmetic product, its intended purpose and how it is to be used. They are required to be labelled in accordance with the Regulations before they can be sold or supplied in Singapore and to make claims that will NOT mislead the consumer about the product's contents, quality or safety.

Suppliers of cosmetic products, such as wholesalers or retailers, must ensure that the cosmetic products comply with the Regulations before they supply the product. Labels or labeling statements must be in English and legible. The following information must appear on the outer packaging or immediate container of the cosmetic products:

- a. Name of the cosmetic product
- b. Function of the cosmetic product
- c. Instructions for use
- d. Full ingredients listing
- e. Country of manufacture
- f. Contents (weight/volume)
- g. Batch number
- h. Manufacturing/ expiry date (expiry date is only required for products with less than 30 months durability)
- i. Name and address in Singapore of company responsible for placing the product in the market
- j. Special precautions, if any (especially those listed in Annex III, VI, VII in the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive)

An explanation of the symbol or code (e.g. colour) used in the label should be provided.

Cosmetic products that bear the label "for professional use only" or similar labelling are restricted for "professional use".

“Professional use” means the application and use of cosmetic products by persons in the exercise of their professional activity (e.g. in hair salons, nail salons, spa salons, skin clinics etc). It also means that such cosmetic products should not be sold by a professional to the consumer.

A “professional” would have attained a certain level of expertise and experience. Therefore, they are more familiar with the risks associated with the use of the products than the consumer. They would also have the professional expertise in the correct application of the product on a consumer.

Label Display

The label must be legible, permanent, indelible, prominently and conspicuously displayed on the product at the point of sale. Labels or labeling statements shall appear on the outer packaging of the cosmetic products or, where there is no outer packaging, on the immediate packaging of cosmetic products.

Where the size, shape or nature of the container or package does not permit all the required information to be specified on the container or package, the use of leaflets, pamphlets, hang tags, display panels etc placed together with the product are allowed. However, the name of the cosmetic product and the batch reference must be displayed on the immediate package or container.

Listing of Ingredients

All cosmetic products must be labelled with all the ingredients contained in the product. The quantity or percentage of each ingredient in the cosmetic product need not be disclosed on the labelling.

The ingredients should be listed in descending order by weight, except for:

- a. Ingredients (except colouring agents) in concentrations of less than 1% (by weight) which may be listed in any order after ingredients present in concentration of 1% or more; and
- b. Colouring agents which may be listed in any order, after the other ingredients.

Perfume and aromatic compositions and their raw materials may be referred to by the word “perfume”, “fragrance”, “aroma” or any other similar term. Likewise, flavouring may be referred to as “flavour” or any other similar term.

Nomenclature of Ingredients

The nomenclature used should be based on the most recent edition of the International Cosmetic Ingredient Dictionary, Chemical Abstracts Service, British Pharmacopoeia and United States Pharmacopoeia, or any other approved standard references. Botanicals and extract of botanicals should be identified by its genus and species.