

Certified Organic Ingredients
(Beauty Cosmetics)



United Kingdom Soil Association (Organic Standard)

The Soil Association (SA) organic symbol is the UK's largest and most recognisable trademark for organic produce. The Soil Association launched its standards for health and beauty products in 2002 and now certify a wide range of companies and products to the standards. The standards were launched in response to companies that wanted independent verification that was geared towards these types of products, and also in response to consumers who wanted to know which products truly were organic.

What is allowed in a beauty product that carries the Soil Association symbol?

A product that carries the Soil Association symbol and is labelled organic, must contain a minimum of 95% organic ingredients. A product that carries the Soil Association symbol and is labelled as 'made with xx% organic ingredients' must contain a minimum of 70% organic ingredients.

The remaining ingredients that are permitted in the products must be proven to be non-GM and can only be used:

- if the organic version of that ingredients is not yet available, or
- they are from a restricted list of synthetic chemicals that have been assessed against criteria to demonstrate they have no detrimental impact on human health and minimum environmental impact.

Of course, not all products use these - some are 100% organic and will say so on the label.

Why do you allow chemical preservatives in organic products?

Organic beauty products that contain oils and oil-based ingredients such as balms and body butters can be made using 100% organic ingredients and do not require the addition of preservatives. Sometimes they may use a mild antioxidant such as tocopherol or ascorbic acid, which are permitted under organic food standards (both the EU regulation and Soil Association standards) and naturally derived.

However, products that contain water, and water and oil based ingredients such as creams, lotions and shampoos need to have some kind of preservative system so that they are safe to use.

In addition they may need an emulsifier which mixes together the oil and water ingredients and stops them separating.

Sometimes organic preservatives can be used such as organic grapefruit seed extract, or naturally derived antioxidants as above, but if these are not effective then a preservative that



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meets strict toxicological and biodegradability criteria ensure that the ingredient is not harmful to health and has minimum environmental impact.

In addition emulsifiers must meet the same requirements, and are often naturally derived. For example, decyl glucoside which can be made from corn starch, but is not yet available in an organic format.

Why should I use organic beauty products?

Many of today's beauty products are made up of varying mixtures of synthetically produced chemicals. The skin is the largest organ in your body. Individual ingredients vary in their ability to penetrate the skin, some are absorbed in tiny amounts while some can reach the blood vessels below the skin and be transported around the body. While one product may contain very small amounts of some of these ingredients, it is the cumulative effect of applying various products regularly that causes concern.

Over the past few years there have been certain cosmetic ingredients that have been highlighted in the media due to their links with health scares which has led some people to choosing organic as a safer alternative. In addition people that suffer from sensitive skin or conditions such as eczema or psoriasis report that organic skincare products work better for them as they contain either tiny amounts of synthetic chemicals, or no synthetic chemicals at all.

Parents are increasingly choosing organic products for their babies and children as their bodies are still developing and are more susceptible to chemicals in non-organic products and more likely to develop allergic reactions to ingredients such as fragrances. Others choose organic products because they eat organic food, and want to continue to support the positive benefits environment that their organic choices make.

Many choose organic beauty products simply because they find they work better!

Which other certification bodies certify beauty products?

There are a few other certification bodies within the EU that certify to their own organic cosmetic and beauty standards. The Soil Association is working with a group of EU certification bodies, for example Ecocert, the main certifying body in France, to develop a common European organic beauty and cosmetic standard. We hope that working with this group that we will be able to create more awareness and understanding for non-food products to be included in the regulation governing organic food and farming.

Source www.soilassociation.org



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Ecocert EU Regulation

ECOCERT is a control and certification organisation, whose activities are governed accordingly by the public authorities and legislation.

ECOCERT is accredited for structure and procedures by COFRAC (French committee for accreditation), in accordance with guide standard ISO 65 (EN 45011), which requires independence, competence and impartiality

ECOCERT SAS is accredited by the COFRAC with the number 7.0031 for:

- puce Organic production of agricultural products
- puce Certification of product conformity
- puce SIQO (Label rouge)
- puce IFS

ECOCERT SA is accredited by the COFRAC with the number 7.0002 for:

- puce Organic production of agricultural products
- puce EurepGap

Certificate and licence

The licence certifies that your company has been audited and that its functioning complies with the Ecological and Organic Cosmetics standard. The certificates list all the products that are certified under the two labels:

«Ecological cosmetics» and «Ecological and Organic cosmetics»

Labeling - Communication

The proposed labeling that you are required to submit must comply with the standard and the general regulation

1 - Finished cosmetic product:

Summary of standard requirements:

puce INCI list with an asterisk alongside the ORGANIC ingredients referring to the phrase "ingredient produced by organic farming" unless the product is 100% ORGANIC puce xx% of the total ingredients are of natural origin [1]

puce xx% of the total ingredients are produced by Organic Farming (if the product is 100% ORGANIC this description will suffice) [1]

puce Ecological and Organic cosmetic certified by ECOCERT SAS - BP 47 - 32600 L'Isle-Jourdain [1]

Furthermore, no logos other than the Ecocert logo should appear alongside the ECOCERT reference so as to avoid any confusion of terms (special dispensation if packaging is too small).

The name of the certified product should not refer to the term ORGANIC unless it is a 100% ORGANIC product, or there is a phrase specifying what is ORGANIC:



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Con't Ecocert EU Regulation

Example: The description 'ORGANIC toothpaste' or 'ORGANIC cream' are not permitted.

The description 'massage oil with organic ginger' is permitted Exemple Etiquetage2 - Raw material for cosmetics:

In this case, the reference to certification is modified:

The phrases required are as follows:

puce "Raw material certified by ECOCERT SAS BP 47 32600 L'Isle Jourdain in accordance with the Ecological and Organic Cosmetics standard"

puce xx% of total ingredients are of natural origin

puce xx% of total ingredient sare produced by Organic Farming (if the product is 100% ORGANIC this description will suffice)

Source www.ecocert.com