

Cosmetics Europe Recommendation on PFAS

Cosmetics Europe (CE) recommends that by December 31st 2025 cosmetics manufacturers phase out the use of per- and polyfluoralkyl ingredients (PFAS)^[1], if intentionally added to cosmetic products placed on the market in EU, EFTA and UK.

^[1] PFAS are defined according to the 2021 Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) [definition](#): “PFASs are defined as fluorinated substances that contain at least one fully fluorinated methyl or methylene carbon atom (without any H/Cl/Br/I atom attached to it), i.e., with a few noted exceptions, any chemical with at least a perfluorinated methyl group (-CF₃) or a perfluorinated methylene group (-CF₂-) is a PFAS”.

Questions & Answers

Q: Why is Cosmetics Europe recommending that cosmetics manufacturers phase out PFAS?

A: The European Commission in its Chemical Strategy for Sustainability is reviewing the use of PFAS across all industry sectors including cosmetics products with the aim to phase out their use. The Cosmetics Europe recommendation is consistent with the European Commission’s strategy.

Q: Are PFAS widely used in cosmetics?

A: No. While CE has no Europe wide data on the use of PFAS in cosmetics, they are not typical ingredients which are used by the cosmetic industry.

Q: Which products does the CE recommendation apply to?

A: All cosmetic products placed on the European market, including EU, EFTA and the UK (including imported products). Note that the CE recommendation addresses PFAS if intentionally added to cosmetics formulations.

Q: Does the CE recommendation cover all types of PFAS?

A: Yes, in accordance with the OECD definition.

