

In June 2012, the European Standardisation Organisation (CEN) published the Standard EN ISO 24443:2012 Cosmetics – Sun protection test methods – In vitro determination of sunscreen UVA photoprotection. A copy of the standard can be purchased from the national standardisation organisations in the EU or from the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO).

This standard test method replaces the earlier reference method (Guidelines - Method for in vitro Determination of UVA protection, 2011). The EN ISO test method is now considered as the reference method within the EU. Cosmetics Europe therefore recommends cosmetic manufacturers to use this standard to determine the UVA Protection Factor and the Critical Wavelength.

Earlier test results obtained by using the above cited CE Test Method remain valid and can be considered as equivalent to the EN ISO test results. It is not necessary to re-test these products.

The Standard EN ISO 24442:2011 Cosmetics - Sun protection test methods - In vivo determination of sunscreen UVA protection which replaces the persistent pigment darkening method published by the Japanese industry in 1995 for in vivo determination of UVA protection as specified in the EU Recommendation (2006) can be also used to test products.

For UVA protection testing, preference is given to the standardised in vitro test method which avoids the need for in vivo testing while delivering equivalent results.

For more information on the appropriate use of sun efficacy test methods, see the Cosmetics Europe Recommendation N°25

A copy of the standard can be purchased from the national CEN members (link: <http://esearch.cen.eu/esearch/CatWeb.aspx?id=12747983>) or from the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) (link: http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue_detail?csnumber=46522).