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**COSMETICS EUROPE  
RECOMMENDATION N° 16: WATER  
RESISTANCE LABELLING**

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## Cosmetics Europe Recommendation on Water Resistance Labelling

### Introduction

This document provides recommended performance thresholds for “Water Resistant” and “Very Water Resistant” claims for sunscreen product labelling.

It is recommended that Sunscreen products may be labelled as “Water Resistant” or “Very Water Resistant” provided that they have been tested in accordance with both ISO16217:2020<sup>1</sup> (‘Water immersion procedure for determining water resistance’) and ISO18861:2020<sup>2</sup> (‘Percentage of water resistance’). They should also fulfil the following statistical criteria and thresholds:

### ‘Water Resistant’ Claim

Products designed to provide water resistance shall be tested by two 20 minute water immersion cycles (as described in ISO16217:2020<sup>1</sup>). A product may be labelled ‘water resistant’ if the value for the 90% lower unilateral confidence limit [mean %WRR – d] is greater than or equal to 50% (using the method described in ISO 18861:2020<sup>2</sup>) AND the 95% confidence interval on the mean static SPF is within  $\pm 17\%$  of the mean static SPF (as described in ISO 24444:2019<sup>3</sup>).

### ‘Very Water Resistant’ Claim

Products designed to provide extra water resistance shall be tested by adding **two further** 20 minute water immersion cycles (as described in ISO16217:2020<sup>1</sup>). A product may be labelled ‘Very Water Resistant’ if it fulfils the same criteria above, that is:

If, after **two further** 20 minute water immersion cycles, the value for the 90% lower unilateral confidence limit [mean %WRR – d] is greater than or equal to 50% (using the method described in ISO 18861:2020<sup>2</sup>) AND the 95% confidence interval on the mean static SPF is within  $\pm 17\%$  of the mean static SPF (as described in ISO 24444:2019<sup>3</sup>).

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<sup>1</sup> ISO 16217:2020 Cosmetics — Sun protection test methods — Water immersion procedure for determining water resistance.

<sup>2</sup> ISO 18861:2020 Cosmetics — Sun protection test methods — Percentage of water resistance

<sup>3</sup> ISO 24444:2019 Cosmetics - Sun protection test methods — In vivo determination of the sun protection factor (SPF)

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