
**Guidelines on technical definitions
and criteria for natural and organic
cosmetic ingredients and products —**

**Part 1:
Definitions for ingredients**

*Lignes directrices relatives aux définitions techniques et aux critères
applicables aux ingrédients et produits cosmétiques naturels et
biologiques —*

Partie 1: Définitions des ingrédients



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 217, *Cosmetics*.

ISO 16128 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Guidelines on technical definitions and criteria for natural and organic cosmetic ingredients and products*:

— *Part 1: Definitions for ingredients*

The following part is under preparation:

— *Part 2: Criteria for ingredients and products*

Introduction

ISO 16128 provides guidelines on definitions and criteria for natural and organic cosmetic ingredients and products. These guidelines are specific to the cosmetics sector, taking into account that most existing approaches written for the agricultural and food sector are not directly transferrable to cosmetics. They apply scientific judgment and offer principles towards a consistent logical framework for natural and organic cosmetic ingredients and products incorporating common approaches employed in existing references. The purpose of these guidelines is to encourage a wider choice of natural and organic ingredients in the formulation of a diverse variety of cosmetic products to encourage innovation.

However, it is common, based on other references in the public domain, to cover criteria for ingredients, as well as definitions and criteria for finished products. This will be covered in ISO 16128-2, which will build on and enhance this part.

Guidelines on technical definitions and criteria for natural and organic cosmetic ingredients and products —

Part 1: Definitions for ingredients

1 Scope

This part of ISO 16128 provides guidelines on definitions for natural and organic cosmetic ingredients.

In addition to natural and organic ingredients, other ingredient categories which may be necessary for natural and organic product development are defined with associated restrictions.

ISO 16128 does not address product communication (e.g. claims and labelling), human safety, environmental safety and socio-economic considerations (e.g. fair trade), and the characteristics of packaging materials or regulatory requirements applicable for cosmetics.

2 Natural ingredients

2.1 General

Natural ingredients are cosmetic ingredients obtained only from plants, animals, micro-organisms or minerals, including those obtained from these materials by

- physical processes (e.g. grinding, drying, distillation),
- fermentation reactions occurring in nature and leading to molecules which occur in nature, and
- other procedures of preparation including traditional ones (e.g. extraction using solvents) without intentional chemical modification ([Annex A](#) includes the definition of solvents and the categories of extracts using solvents for ingredient processing and manufacturing).

The following materials, and materials originating from them, shall be considered to fall under the general heading of natural origin:

- a) plants including fungi and algae;

NOTE 1 Ingredients coming from genetically modified plants can be considered as natural ingredients in certain regions of the world.

NOTE 2 In the context of these guidelines, the term “herb” can be used as a synonym for the word plant.

- b) minerals;
- c) animals;
- d) micro-organisms.

Ingredients obtained from fossil fuels are excluded from the definition.