

COSMOS-standard – INTRODUCING VERSION 3.1 **1st of June 2020**

COSMOS is proud to announce the publication of Version 3.1 of its scheme documents (COSMOS-standard, Labelling Guide, Technical Guide and Control Manual) following the last update published in September 2018.

The main aims of the Version 3.1 revisions have been to strengthen the COSMOS procedures and reflect updates on the interpretation of criteria.

Version 3.1 comes into force on the 1st June 2020 with immediate date of application.

COSMOS-standard

- Introduced composition rules for raw materials with organic content under certification (7.5) and without organic content under approval (7.6).
- Clarified composition rules for cosmetic products made with a high majority of CPAI (7.1.1).
- Covered the case when the standards' rules on labelling of products under organic certification conflict with national laws (10.2).
- The case of use of phosphorylated compounds used as a chemical process for processing agro-ingredients is now detailed (Appendix II).

LABELLING GUIDE

- The color options for COSMOS ORGANIC and COSMOS CERTIFIED signatures have been more precisely defined (5 & 6).
- Introduced an alternative signature when "organic" or "natural" mentions are in conflict with relevant national laws (5 & 6)

TECHNICAL GUIDE

- The Technical Guide is now presented in 2 sections: the section 1 gives an overview of key requirements for all COSMOS signatures; the section 2 gives guidance on interpreting technical points and criteria (Introduction).
- Definitions for Brand Owner, Distributor, Handler Manufacturer and Sub-contractor have been added and requirements have been finetuned for most of them; in cases of doubt, a risk assessment can be conducted (3).
- A more detailed definition about rinse-off products such as depilatory waxes and peel-off masks has been given (4).
- The minimal particle size of nanomaterials has been specified, and silica usage specifications covered (5.1.1).
- Added information on water quality checking depending on for which certified product or raw material, or approved raw material it is being used (6.1.1).
- Specifications about Royal jelly have been added to the PPAI chapter (6.1.3).
- More details given on the calculation rules for organic percentage of PPAI for alcohol when used as a single ingredient and no water or other ingredient is added and for distilled plant (6.2.3).
- More details given on the calculation rules for organic percentage of CPAI for hydrolysis and for fermented extract (x6.2.4).
- Composition rules for cosmetic products under organic certification about ingredients for soaps (7.1.1) and for palm oil, palm kernel oil and derivatives (7.4).
- On the chapter of packaging, defined which packaging items do not have to be checked (8.3), given examples of how to minimize the amount of material used (8.3.1), defined how a recycled material can be assessed (8.3.1), defined how we consider a material can be reused (8.3.1) and explained how this can be reviewed against 8.3.1 (8.3.2)
- Detailed the specific requirements regarding fabrics whether used in COSMOS ORGANIC or COSMOS NATURAL products.
- Defined the scope of concerned cleaning products (9.2).
- Precisions have been given about ingredients and surfactants in the case of products endorsed by labels such as Nordic Swan or Ecolabel (9.2).
- Disinfection materials have been added to the list (9.2.2).
- Defined the circumstances by which certifiers may allow exemptions for companies to use conventional cleaning products (9.2.4).
- In the general rules about labelling, covered the subject of 'pseudo organic logos and seals' (10.1).
- Requirements for providers of non-organic raw materials have been clarified to avoid confusions (10.5).
- The ingredients of mineral origin such as hydroxyapatite and metals have added with specific conditions (Appendix IV).
- Defined what is considered as a mixture / blend (Appendix VI and VII).
- Listed when toxicity and biodegradability data is not required (Appendix VIII).

CONTROL MANUAL

- The ISO/IEC Guide 17011 by which Accreditation Bodies must comply has been updated to year 2017 (6).
- Introduced General Requirements (6.1) for the Accreditation Bodies and the scopes of accreditation are now detailed (6.2).
- In the case of suspension or withdrawal of accreditation, the Certification Body shall provide an action plan (7.4.4).
- Added specifications about transfer of certificates between Certification Bodies (7.4.5).
- Raw material suppliers may request that their certification information is not made publicly available on the COSMOS databases when required for confidentiality reasons (8.1.2).
- Defined more precisely the minimum number of traceability or mass balance conformity assessment to be included in the audit protocol, and the associated risk analysis to be carried out (8.3.2 / audit protocol).
- Removed the chapter "8.3.2 / Frequency of audit".
- A chapter has been added to set the requirements related to remote audits (8.3.2 / ensuring safety of auditors).
- Requirements for scope 2 re-evaluation have been added (8.3.6 / re-evaluation).
- Introduced the notions of 'minor' and 'major' non-conformities and related requirements (8.3.8 / termination...)

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For further information

Please consult your certification body