



NSF Cosmetics and Personal Care Program

CLAIMS SUBSTANTIATION AND Testing Services

NSF International's world class ISO/IEC 17025-accredited laboratories provide testing to support safety and quality goals or address compliance issues. A professional staff of dedicated chemists, toxicologists, microbiologist, regulatory and public health professionals test a wide range of products including pharmaceuticals, dietary supplements and food additives in addition to cosmetics and personal care products.

We offer mainstream ingredient and finished product testing to verify safety and quality, regulatory compliance or the absence of common contaminants such as heavy metals, residual solvents and pesticides. Highly specialized analytical testing is also available to solve even the most complex quality issues.

“FREE FROM” CONTAMINANTS AND CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

Cosmetic and personal care ingredients are becoming increasingly scrutinized as consumers seek safer products. NSF International assists retailers and manufacturers in meeting these consumer demands by verifying the “free from” claims on cosmetic and personal care products for various chemicals of concern. NSF toxicologists review formulations and conduct testing to verify the absence of a wide range of contaminants, including:

- > 1,4-dioxane
- > Alcohol (ethanol)
- > Allergens (e.g. gluten)
- > Ethanolamine compounds (MEA, DEA, TEA and others)
- > Lead and other heavy metals
- > PABA
- > Phosphate
- > Phthalates
- > Chemical residues (e.g. Bisphenol A)
- > Solvents (e.g. Toluene)

CONTAMINANT TESTING

NSF scientists conduct hundreds of contaminant tests each day on a variety of consumer products, including cosmetics and personal care products, dietary supplements and household cleaning products. NSF scientists utilize state-of-the-art instrumentation which deliver trace level detection limits consistent with Proposition 65 requirements. Our microbiology and molecular biology laboratories conduct preservative efficacy testing, microbial contaminant testing against USP 51 and 61 and utilize ELISA techniques to confirm allergen claims.



EPA SAFER CHOICE PROGRAM

NSF is the largest third-party reviewer of products to the EPA's Safer Choice program. The Safer Choice mark on product labels is a signal to consumers that the product is free from chemicals of concern, such as known carcinogens or toxicants. Our toxicologists and chemists perform ingredient-by-ingredient reviews of product formulations to identify chemicals that may present threats to human and environmental health, along with recommending safer substitutes.

Manufacturers with products that do not include any fragrance materials now have the option to get products reviewed by the EPA and earn the Safer Choice Fragrance-Free label. For consumers, the label allows for easy identification of products that are verified by the EPA to be fragrance-free. The Safer Choice program also reviews packaging to verify a reduced environmental impact.

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION



NSF's organic certification group, Quality Assurance International (QAI), certifies personal care products to the USDA National Organic Program (NOP). Additionally, products that contain at least 70 percent certified organic ingredients but do not meet the food-focused requirements of the USDA NOP can earn certification to NSF/ANSI 305, the only American National Standard for personal care products containing organic ingredients.

CONTACT US

For more information, visit [nsf.org/info/cosmetics](https://www.nsf.org/info/cosmetics) or email cosmetics@nsf.org.

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