



# SPECIFICATIONS

*Rules and standards for the inspection  
and certification of ecological products*

## PART II COSMETICS

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# VISION & MISSION

## **The vision of Ecogarantie®**

Ecogarantie®, a Belgian trademark, registered at a Community level for ecological products is a management system and a promotional instrument which guarantees the consumer that a given product bearing the label Ecogarantie® meets strict requirements in terms of ecological quality.

Indeed, Social, Economic and Ecological aspects are taken into account, while respecting both life cycle and the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs.

## **The mission of Ecogarantie® includes**

1. Helping consumers and companies to identify easily and reliably ecological products. Thereby guaranteeing as much as possible transparency for consumers and companies through clear rules and a complete labelling of the product.
2. Verifying the use of the trademark Ecogarantie® on ecological product. Actually, the ecological quality of a product is more contained in the principle of “*obligatory means*” than in the principle of “*obligatory results*”. The presence of the trademark Ecogarantie® aims at the ecological quality of the product in the field of :
  - Â Sustainability,
  - Â Safety,
  - Â Minimal impact on the environment.
3. Anticipating - in the aim of a continual improvement of the own specifications - the positive evolution of the regulation by defining standards for fields not yet covered by the European regulation.

## **This can be accomplished through**

- Â The specifications
- Â A (good) management of the trademark
- Â The independent system of inspection and certification

## **The products**

Ingredients and methods of preparation are selected according to their ecological properties and origin.

## CONTENT

A. GENERAL PURPOSE .....	4
B. FIELD OF APPLICATION .....	4
C. USE OF THE TRADEMARK.....	5
D. PREPARATION .....	5
D.1. RAW MATERIALS AND PHYSICAL PROCESSES USED IN PROCESSING .....	5
D.1 <sup>1</sup> . Vegetable products.....	5
D.1 <sup>2</sup> . Animal products .....	5
D.1 <sup>3</sup> . Animal secretions.....	5
D.1 <sup>4</sup> . Minerals .....	6
D.1 <sup>5</sup> . Maritime products .....	6
D.1 <sup>6</sup> . Gas.....	6
D.1 <sup>7</sup> . Nature of the physical processes used .....	6
D.2. SEMI-MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS OBTAINED THROUGH CHEMICAL/MICROBIOLOGICAL PROCESSES .....	8
D.2 <sup>1</sup> . Nature of the chemical processes used .....	8
D.2 <sup>2</sup> . Nature of the microbiological/biotechnological processes used .....	9
D.2 <sup>3</sup> . Semi-manufactured product of vegetable origin.....	9
D.2 <sup>4</sup> . Semi-manufactured product of animal origin.....	10
D.2 <sup>5</sup> . Semi-manufactured product of mineral origin .....	10
D.2 <sup>6</sup> . Semi-manufactured product of maritime origin.....	12
D.2 <sup>7</sup> . Semi-manufactured products of microbial origin .....	12
D.2 <sup>8</sup> . Surfactants .....	13
D.3. CHEMICALLY SYNTHESISED SEMI-MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS.....	14
D.3 <sup>1</sup> . Preservatives in the ingredients.....	14
D.3 <sup>2</sup> . Preservatives in the end product .....	14
D.3 <sup>3</sup> . Ingredient from natural origin containing petrochemical grafts .....	15
D.3 <sup>4</sup> . Ingredient requiring the use of petrochemical solvent .....	15
D.4. PRODUCTION OF COSMETICS .....	15
D.5. ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA .....	16
D.5 <sup>1</sup> . Environmental criterion: Aerobic and anaerobic biodegradability of the organic substances ..	16
D.5 <sup>2</sup> . Nanotechnology.....	16
D.5 <sup>3</sup> . Microplastics.....	16
E. PACKAGING .....	16
E.1. MENTION ON THE PACKAGING .....	16
F. COMPANY .....	17
G. GLOSSARY .....	17

### A. GENERAL PURPOSE

1. The selection of the ingredients is based on the principles of sustainability and ecological responsibility. Agricultural ingredients (raw materials and semi-manufactured products) are organically -grown unless it can be proved that they are not available. If such is the case, it will be mentioned in the present specifications. Synthetic products, synthetic colouring agents and preservatives will not be used or be used in a very restricted way. The positive list only mentions substances which, because of their specific properties and of their function in the product, cannot be substituted, in the short term, by a better and more ecological alternative.

**The use of genetically modified organisms (GMO's) or of GMO techniques in the production chain is strictly forbidden.**

2. The processes used in the production and processing may not be polluting and must respect both our health and the environment. This will be done through measures that take into account biodegradability, recycling of packaging, waste products... The commercialization of these quality cosmetics takes into account the well being of the consumer by setting up clear rules as well as by favouring communication and transparency in the chain.

End products may not be tested on animals according to European Regulation 1223/2009 and its subsequent modifications (see § D.4). Alternative methods will be used.

### B. FIELD OF APPLICATION

The name "cosmetics" is defined (see the European Regulation N° 1223/2009) as:

Any substance or mixture intended to be placed in contact with the external parts of the human body (epidermis, hair system, nails, lips and external genital organs) or with the teeth and the mucous membranes of the oral cavity with a view exclusively or mainly to cleaning them, perfuming them or protecting them, changing their appearance, protecting them, keeping them in good condition or correcting body odours.

All ingredients must conform to the Regulation N° 1223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the 30th of November 2009 and to the Royal Decree of July 17th 2012 concerning cosmetics products put on the Belgian market, and meet the additional stipulations of the present specification.

Cosmetics are not covered by EC Regulation 834/2007 concerning organically-grown products and therefore do not need to be certified.

However, the raw materials which would be organically-grown in the framework of the Ecogarantie® specifications, must meet the requirements of:

- EC Regulation 834/2007 and its modifications and/or
- The Biogarantie® standards.

All finished cosmetic products should have to fulfil the legal requirement.

## C. USE OF THE TRADEMARK

The Ecogarantie® logo may be used on:

- Raw materials and/or
- Semi-manufactured products and/or
- Final products

if they meet the requirements of the present specifications and have therefore been submitted to the inspection and certification of one of the approved certification bodies.

## D. PREPARATION

### D.1. RAW MATERIALS AND PHYSICAL PROCESSES USED IN PROCESSING

#### D.1<sup>1</sup>. Vegetable products

**Vegetable products are authorized based on the following criteria:**

- Organically-grown and/or harvested from wild plants according to EC Regulation 834/2007 and its modifications,
- Not being part of the European and international list of protected species (see the Washington Convention or the Bern Convention).

#### D.1<sup>2</sup>. Animal products

Animal products are not forbidden but there seems to be no need for their use. Therefore, there is no positive list either.<sup>1</sup>

#### D.1<sup>3</sup>. Animal secretions

**Animal secretions are authorized based on the following general criteria:**

- From organic husbandry according to EC Regulation 834/2007 and its modifications,
- Not being part of the European and international list of protected species (see the Washington Convention or the Bern Convention),
- The exploitation of which has to respond to the general principles of the Ecogarantie® Standard.

**Positive list:**

<b>Authorised animal secretions</b>
Butyris Lac
Butyrum
Caprae Lac (goat milk)
Carmine
Cera alba <sup>2</sup>
Cera flava <sup>2</sup>
Lac (milk)
Lanolin <sup>2</sup>
Lanolin cera <sup>2</sup>
Mel
Ovum
Propolis Cera

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<sup>1</sup> For questions on this subject, please contact the Ecogarantie® Technical Committee.

<sup>2</sup> Non organic quality authorised

Royal JellySilk
Shellac
Silk
Snail secretion filtrate
Shell Powder (Only from natural dead shells)

#### D.1<sup>4</sup>. Minerals

**Minerals are authorized based on the following criteria:**

- Must be used for their intrinsic properties
- Their exploitation causes no pollution or damage to the landscape
- Whole and unmodified
- No disinfection through gamma rays

It is the producer's duty to show to the certification body that he has examined these elements while selecting his raw materials.

**Examples of authorised products:**

- Alumina
- Montmorillonite clay (bentonite)
- Kaolin clay
- Illite
- Chalks
- Sand
- Drinkable water: spring water, reverse-osmosis water, un-mineralised water...
- Talc

**Negative list:**

- Petrochemical products

#### D.1<sup>5</sup>. Maritime products

**Maritime products are authorized based on the following criteria:**

For the vegetable maritime products: see criteria under point D.1<sup>1</sup>

For the animal maritime products: see criteria under point D.1<sup>2</sup>.

For the mineral maritime products: see criteria under point D.1<sup>4</sup>.

#### D.1<sup>6</sup>. Gas

**Authorized gases are recorded in a positive list.**

**Positive list:**

<b>Authorised gasses</b>
carbon dioxide
oxygen
nitrogen

#### D.1<sup>7</sup>. Nature of the physical processes used

**The hereby authorized raw materials may only be processed through very specific physical processes which are recorded in a positive list based on the following criteria:**

- Processes which give good biodegradable molecules

- Processes which respect the naturally active substances
- Processes which allow a good management of the waste and of the energy consumption

**Positive list:**

absorption (on an inert support <sup>2</sup> )
bleaching, deodorization (on an inert support <sup>2</sup> )
grinding
centrifuging (separating solid substance from liquids)
settling and decanting
desiccation, drying (by means of (non) gradual evaporation or sun radiation)
freezing/individually quick frozen
deterpenation (if fractioned steam distillation)
distillation or extraction (steam)
squeezing, crushing
extraction by means of following solvents: with any form of water or with a third solvent of plant origin water ethyl alcohol vegetable glycerine honey sugar vinegar carbon dioxide vegetable oils
filtration and purification (ultra-filtration, dialysis, crystallisation)
lyophilisation
blending
percolation
cold pressure
warm pressure (to extract according to the fluidity of the fatty acids)
Sterilization by means of heat treatment (according to the temperatures respecting the active substances) and UV (only for water)
Sifting
Maceration
solar extraction (Eg. flower remedies)
cold extraction
Vacuum
decoction (hot or cold)
infusion (hot or cold)
decoloration
microwave
ultrasound
UV treatments

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<sup>2</sup> Inert support: substance that has no chemical reaction with the original substance.

**post extraction**

filtration, micro filter, depth filter (with non-bleached filtering papers)  
blending different batches of extracted herbs to achieve a specified level of markers/actives  
concentration by evaporation, vacuum distillation, spray drying  
clarifying/precipitating agents (permitted additives or processing aids: see appendix VIII of EC reg. 889/2008)  
nitrogen flushing  
pasteurisation

**Examples of forbidden processes:**

irradiation (X-rays)
ionising treatments (gamma rays)
<b>extraction by means of following solvents:</b> benzene hexane toluene mineral oils petroleum-derived solvents
extraction with ultrasound <sup>3</sup>
<b>post extraction</b> electron beaming irradiation rectification

**D.2. SEMI-MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS OBTAINED THROUGH CHEMICAL/MICROBIOLOGICAL PROCESSES****D.2<sup>1</sup>: Nature of the chemical processes used**

In order to produce a semi-manufactured product that conforms to the present specifications, the hereby authorized raw materials may only be treated by means of specific chemical processes which are recorded in a positive list based on the following criteria:

- Processes which give good biodegradable molecules
- Processes which respect the naturally active substances
- Processes which allow a good management of the waste and of the energy consumption

**Positive list:**

Alkylation
Amidation
Calcination of vegetable residue
Carbonisation (resins, fatty vegetable oils)

<sup>3</sup> Precautionary principle: is forbidden as long as no study has proved the method to be innocuous.



Condensation / addition
Esterification, inter-esterification and trans-esterification
Etherification
Filtration and purification (crystallisation, electrolysis, ion exchange)
Hydration
Hydrogenation
Hydrolysis
Neutralisation through bases <sup>4</sup>
Neutralisation through acids <sup>4</sup>
Oxidation/reduction
Production processes for amphoteric (amidification)
Phosphorylation only for leave-on products
Saponification
Sulfatation
Roasting

**Examples of forbidden processes:**

Quaternisation except in the case of amphoteric
Bleaching, deodorisation (on a support of animal origin)
Deterpenation (if not by means of steam)
Ethoxylation (PEG, ...)
Sulfonation (in main reaction)
Treatments with ethylene oxide (disinfection...)
Treatments with mercury (production of sodium and potassium hydroxide)
Propoxylation
Chlorine chemistry (chloric gasses, chlorine derivatives), with the exception of tap water

**D.2<sup>2</sup> Nature of the microbiological/biotechnological processes used**

**Microbiological/biotechnological processes are allowed based on the following criteria:**

- From vegetable or animal raw materials

**Examples of authorised processes:**

- In vitro cultivation, wild or controlled fermentation by means of micro-organisms.

**Negative list:**

Cloning, cell culture, methods based on genetically modified organisms (GMO): organism the genetic material of which has been modified in a way or with results that cannot be naturally achieved through reproduction, traditional forms of crossing, cross breeding, hybridation and/or recombination.

**D.2<sup>3</sup> Semi-manufactured product of vegetable origin**

**Semi-manufactured products of vegetable origin are authorized based on the following criteria:**

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<sup>4</sup> Unable to mention here all the different modalities (catalysts, solvents,...) necessary for the accomplishment of certain processes, we wish to remind you that these must however comply with the criteria mentioned above.

Only the raw materials and processes above mentioned are authorised. Exception is made for the organic quality of the raw materials: if they are not available in their organic version, raw materials from conventional agriculture may be used to produce the semi-manufactured product.

#### Table of examples of authorised products

Peracetic acid
Produce obtained through fermentation like ethanol, citric acid, formic acid...
Tocopherol
Salts like sodium citrate, zinc gluconate, zinc lactate, zinc ricinoleate, zinc stearate...
Acetic acid
Caprylic diglyceride, Caprylic triglyceride
Caesalpinia spinosa gum
Glycerin
Glyceryl caprylate
Lactic acid
Squalane
Propylene glycol
Butylene glycol

#### D.2<sup>4</sup>: Semi-manufactured product of animal origin

**Authorized semi-manufactured products of animal origin are recorded in a positive list based, among others, on the following criteria:**

Only the above-mentioned raw materials and processes are authorised. Exception is made for the organic quality of the raw materials: if they are not available in their organic version, conventional raw materials may be used to produce the semi-manufactured product.

#### Positive list:

<b>Authorized semi-manufactured products of animal origin</b>
Beeswax acid
Behenyl Beeswax
Behenyl / isostearyl Beeswax
Hydrolysed milk protein
Lactis Proteinum
Lactoferrin
Lactoperoxydase
Lactose
Lanolin alcohol
Yoghurt

#### D.2<sup>5</sup>: Semi-manufactured product of mineral origin

**Authorized semi-manufactured products of mineral origin are recorded in a positive list based on the following criteria:**

- À The only raw materials and processes to be authorised are those defined above

#### Positive list:

<b>Authorized semi-manufactured products of mineral origin</b>
CI 77000 aluminium
CI 77007 lazzerite

CI 77163 bismuth oxychlorure
CI 77220 calcium carbonate
calcium aluminium borosilicate
calcium chloride
calcium fluoride
calcium hydroxide
calcium sodium borosilicate
calcium sulfate
cerium oxide
CI 77288 and CI 77289 chromium oxides
CI 77400 copper
iron hydroxide
iron oxides CI 77480, 77491, 77492, 77499
iron sulfate
CI 77510 (Prussian blue)
CI 77711 magnesium oxide
CI 77713 magnesium carbonate (magnesite)
CI 77742 ammonium and manganese diphosphate
CI 77745 manganese bis orthophosphate
CI 77891 titanium dioxide
CI 77947 zinc oxide
copper oxide
copper sulfate
cupric sulfate
dicalcium phosphate dihydrate
disodium phosphate
Gold
hydrated silica
magnesium aluminium silicate
magnesium chloride
magnesium hydroxide
magnesium silicate
magnesium sulfate
manganese sulfate
magnesium phosphate
Mica
potassium alum
potassium carbonate
potassium chloride
potassium hydroxide
potassium iodide
potassium sulfate
potassium thiocyanate
silica
silver chloride
silver CI 77820
silver oxide
silver sulfate
sodium bicarbonate
sodium borate
sodium carbonate
sodium chloride

sodium fluoride
sodium hydroxide
sodium magnesium silicate
sodium metasilicate
sodium monofluorophosphate
sodium silicate
sodium sulfate
sodium thiosulfate
tin oxide
Zeolite
zinc carbonate
zinc gluconate
zinc lactate
zinc ricinoleate
zinc stearate
zinc sulfate
<b>aluminium compounds not water soluble:</b> aluminium/magnesium hydroxide stearate aluminium hydroxide aluminium oxide aluminium stearate aluminium sulfate
silicon dioxide
caprylic diglyceride

#### D.2<sup>6</sup>. Semi-manufactured product of maritime origin

**Authorized semi-manufactured products of maritime origin are recorded in a positive list based on the following criteria:**

The only raw materials and processes to be authorised are those defined above. Exception is made for the organic quality of the raw materials: if they are not available in their organic version, conventional raw materials may be used to produce the semi-manufactured product.

**Positive list:**

<b>Authorized semi-manufactured products of maritime origin</b>
Algin
Carrageenan
Calcium alginate
Chitosan
Laminaria Ochroleuca (algae)
Potassium alginate
Xantophyll

#### D.2<sup>7</sup>. Semi-manufactured products of microbial origin

**Authorized semi-manufactured products of microbial origin are recorded in a positive list based on the following criteria:**

The only raw materials and processes to be authorized are those defined above. Exception is made for the organic quality of the raw materials: if they are not available in their organic version, conventional raw materials may be used to produce the semi-manufactured product.

**Positive list:**

- Xanthan gum
- Hydrolyzed wheat protein

**D.2<sup>8</sup>. Surfactants**

Surfactants are authorized according to the following criteria:

- Based only on the raw materials and processes as defined above
- Petro-chemical synthesis is ruled out of the manufacturing process, exemption section D.3<sup>3</sup>.

**Examples of authorised surfactants:**

<b>Authorised surfactants</b>
Condensates of proteins/fatty acids
Any kind of soap produced from vegetable fatty acids and anorganic bases (sodium and potassium salts): Palmates, Cocoates, Olivates, Oleates, ... and their blends. Exception: soaps based on resin acids from coniferous trees because of their high level of toxicity in water
Alkylsulphates of vegetable origin: Sodium Lauryl Sulphate, Sodium Coco Sulphate, Sodium Octyl Sulphate, Sodium Oleyl Sulphate.
Alkylglutamate of vegetable base
Lipoamines of vegetable origin: Sodium Lauroyl Lipoamines
Alkylpolyglucosides of vegetable origin: Decyl Glucoside, Lauryl Glucoside, Octyl Glucoside, Caprylyl/Capryl Glucoside
Alkylglucosides of vegetable origin: Sucrose Cocoate, Sucrose laurate
Alkylpolypentoside
Disodium cocoylglutamate, Sodium cocoylglutamate
Sophorolipids

**Examples of forbidden surfactants:**

Linear alkylbenzene sulfonate
Quats (quaternary ammonium connections)
Alkylphenol polyethenoglycoethers (EPEO) like nonylphenolenylethoxylaten
Alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEO) or other alkylphenol derivatives (APD's)
Amine ethoxylates
EO/PO polymers in bloc (EO=ethylene oxide, PO=propylene oxide)
Secondary alkane sulphonate (SAS)
Fatty alcohol ethoxylates
Toluolsulphonate

### D.3. CHEMICALLY SYNTHESISED SEMI-MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS

**Definition:** ingredients produced by chemical synthesis

**General rule:** (petro) chemical synthesis is ruled out of the manufacturing process

**Examples of forbidden chemically synthesized semi-manufactured products:**

- Synthetic colouring agents
- Synthetic perfumes
- Synthetic antioxidants
- Synthetic emollients (soothing agents)
- Synthetic oils and fats
- Synthetic silicones
- Synthetic sun tan lotions
- Chelating agents based on EDTA and its salts

**Exceptions to the rule: “petro-chemical synthesis is ruled out of the manufacturing process” can only be granted according the following criteria:**

A few exceptions (see positive lists D.3<sup>1</sup>, D.3<sup>2</sup>, D.3<sup>3</sup>, D.3<sup>4</sup>) are tolerated in these standards when this kind of synthesis does not apply to a main component or when the substances concerned cannot be replaced in the short run by a better and more ecological alternative because of their specific properties and of their function in the product.

#### D.3<sup>1</sup>: Preservatives in the ingredients

**Positive list:**

<b>Authorized preservatives in the ingredients</b>
acetic acid, its salts and esters
benzoic acid, its salts and esters
benzyl alcohol
dehydroacetic acid
lactoperoxidase
formic acid and its sodium salt
phenylethyl alcohol
propionic acid and its salts
sorbic acid and its salts
silver chloride

Parahydroxybenzoic acid, and its salts and esters (parabens) **are unauthorized.**

#### D.3<sup>2</sup>: Preservatives in the end product

**Positive list:**

<b>Authorized preservatives in the end product</b>
acetic acid, its salts and esters
benzoic acid, its salts and esters
benzylic alcohol
dehydroacetic acid
lactoperoxidase
formic acid and its sodium salt

propionic acid and its salts
salicylic acid and its salts
sorbic acid and its salts
phenylethyl alcohol

### **D.3<sup>3</sup>: Ingredient from natural origin containing petrochemical grafts**

This is a provisional list that will be updated regularly in order to remove or replace materials with alternatives. The percentage of synthetic grafts must not exceed 2% of the total finished product.

#### **Positive list:**

<b>Authorized ingredient</b>
alkyl amphoacetate/ diacetate
Alkylglucosidecarboxylate
Carboxy Methyl Cellulose (Cellulose Gum)
Cocamidopropylbetaine
Cocobetaine
Cocodimonium Hydroxypropyl Hydrolyzed Wheat Protein
Distearoylethyl Dimonium Chloride
Guar Hydroxypropyl Trimonium Chloride

### **D.3<sup>4</sup>: Ingredient requiring the use of petrochemical solvent**

No trace of solvent may appear in the finished product as far as technically possible.

#### **Positive list:**

<b>Authorized ingredient</b>
Annatto
Betaine
Carotenoids
Oryzanol

## **D.4. PRODUCTION OF COSMETICS**

**Are authorized in the processing of ingredients into a cosmetic product:**

- **Only the nature of physical and/or chemical processes recorded in the positive lists under D.1.<sup>7</sup> And D.2.<sup>1</sup>.**
- **Only the raw materials and semi-manufactured products recorded in the positive lists from D.1.<sup>1</sup> To D.1.<sup>6</sup> And from D.2.<sup>3</sup> To D.2.<sup>8</sup>.**

End products may not be tested on animals according to European Regulation 1223/2009 and its subsequent modifications.

## D.5. ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

### D.5<sup>1</sup>: Environmental criterion: Aerobic and anaerobic biodegradability of the organic substances

Each surfactant that is present in the product must be:

- readily biodegradable in aerobic conditions according to the legal rules
- and biodegradable in anaerobic condition according to the legal rules

### D.5<sup>2</sup>: Nanotechnology

Because of the low knowledge of the impact of nanomaterials to the environment and the human health they are forbidden until further notice.

### D.5<sup>3</sup>: Microplastics

The use of microplastics is not allowed in Ecogarantie® products.

## E. PACKAGING

### E.1. MENTION ON THE PACKAGING

**Once the operator refers to the ingredients and the organic agriculture, the following rules must be applied:**

#### **a) Information about the ingredients**

A complete ingredient declaration in common language or with the INCI names must be mentioned on the label, regardless of the quantity involved (see European Regulation 1223/2009).

If the product contains perfumes, this must be mentioned on the packaging.

#### **b) Reference to the organic agriculture**

Reference to organic agriculture may be made for agricultural raw materials and semi-manufactured products which conform to the following texts:

- EC Regulation 834/2007 and its modifications
- Ecogarantie® specifications, namely for the conditions regarding the physical and chemical/microbiological processes

The indications referring to organic production methods make it clear that they relate to a method of agricultural production and are accompanied by a reference to the ingredients of agricultural origin concerned, unless such reference is clearly given in the list of ingredients.

#### **c) Percentage of organic ingredients**

If percentages of organic ingredients are mentioned on the packaging, the operator will communicate the method used for the calculation to the attention of the control body and mention it on the packaging. E.g. the operator will mention if the percentage refers to the total of ingredients or only to the vegetable ingredients.

The labelling refers to the name of the inspection body to which the operator is subject.

*Evaluation and control:* The applicant will submit to his certification body a sample of the packaging of the product.



## F. COMPANY

The company must be able to prove that it meets the legal regulations in terms of cosmetic production (European Regulation 1223/2009, Royal Decree of July 17th, 2012), and that it busies itself with a system such as HACCP and traceability.

### **Control plan**

Following procedures must be set up:

- A file per product, containing all the guarantees from the suppliers (analyses and certificates as to the origin of the ingredients and of the production processes)
- A program of the risk analyses in order to supplement and verify the guarantees from the suppliers
- Guarantees concerning the production of raw materials, which may not damage the environment
- A description of the conformity procedures on end products

## G. GLOSSARY

### **Animal products**

Products from the animal itself and requiring the slaughtering of the animal (examples are: fat, fresh cells, ox gall, collagen ...)

### **Animal secretions**

Products secreted by animals, such as lanoline or milk.

### **Cosmetics**

is defined (see the European Regulation N° 1223/2009) as any substance or mixture intended to be placed in contact with the external parts of the human body (epidermis, hair system, nails, lips and external genital organs) or with the teeth and the mucous membranes of the oral cavity with a view exclusively or mainly to cleaning them, perfuming them, changing their appearance, protecting them, keeping them in good condition or correcting body odour's.

### **Ingredients**

As well raw materials as semi-manufactured products.

### **Mineral**

Inorganic salt, component of the earth's crust extracted rather than manufactured.

### **Mixture**

Mixture or solution composed of two or more substances.

### **Organic products (coming from organic farming) or wild vegetable products:**

Products meeting the EC regulation 834/2007

### **Raw materials**

Vegetable, animal or mineral products, coming from organic, if available, agriculture or obtained by extraction, unprocessed or gained through physical processes, so that the original characteristics have been kept almost intact.

**Semi-manufactured products**

A product which is obtained through the manufacturing of raw materials, according to physico-chemical and/or microbiological/biotechnological processes and/or chemical synthesis that may sometimes deeply modify the original characteristics, and which is meant to be further processed into a final product.

**Substance**

Chemical element and its compounds in the natural state or obtained by any manufacturing process, including any additive necessary to preserve its stability and any impurity deriving from the process used but excluding any solvent which may be separated without affecting the stability of the substance or changing its composition.

*Updated November 2020*