

THE Cosmetic CLIMATE



The Cosmetic, Toiletry & Perfumery Association (CTPA) presents a guide to safe practice & best business performance

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About the CTPA

The Cosmetic, Toiletry & Perfumery Association (CTPA) is the voice of the British cosmetics and personal care industry, promoting good working practice to ensure that consumers are provided with the very best products. It represents the interests of the industry as a whole by working with the UK government, the media and many different organisations as needed.

The CTPA is a trade association supported and funded by its membership, and CTPA members include companies of all sizes involved in making, selling or distributing cosmetics throughout the UK market. Companies selling cosmetic ingredients or providing services to the cosmetic industry can also be members of the CTPA. This association doesn't enforce the rules or laws surrounding cosmetics products, as this is the responsibility of Trading Standards in the UK. Instead, the CTPA acts as the authoritative public voice of a responsible and vibrant UK industry. This means keeping in regular contact with the UK authorities that regulate the cosmetics industry, such as Trading Standards and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). It also means working with journalists and the media and other organisations, including professional beauty organisations, to share knowledge and promote best practice.

All of this is vital to ensure that the CTPA is well-

informed and best placed

to help companies deal with the many issues facing the industry today; enabling them to make quality cosmetic products to the highest possible safety standards.

The CTPA is excited to be working with *Scratch* and is looking forward to bringing readers the latest news and helpful information directly from the cosmetics industry every quarter.

The CTPA has many great resources for you and your clients on thefactsabout.co.uk. This website explains cosmetic science, safety and common myths and misconceptions about cosmetics.



The 14 CTPA staff members

Value of the UK beauty industry

The UK cosmetics industry was worth over £9 billion (retail sales price) in 2018. Over recent years, there's been significant growth in the beauty treatments market, estimated to be worth £1.9 billion in 2018. Nail treatments/polishes in salons have dented retail sales as consumers head to the salon for a professional finish.

Source: CTPA Annual Report 2018 on www.ctpa.org.uk

The CTPA staff

The CTPA has a small yet mighty team. There are 14 people divided into four different areas of work: commercial & communications, scientific & environmental, regulatory & international and administration.

Its creative and vibrant commercial and communications team deals with membership, the media and all communication channels such as the websites and *Twitter* account. Its knowledgeable and talented scientific and environmental team helps companies with scientific questions and manages the CTPA strategy for improving the environmental sustainability of the UK cosmetics industry.

The CTPA's passionate and dedicated regulatory and international team helps companies navigate the changing regulatory landscape to make sure they comply with all the laws and to aid understanding of how to make the most of international opportunities. The super-organised administrative function keeps the rest of the staff on track with the day-to-day running of the organisation.

Do you know what a cosmetic is?

Although this sounds like a question with an obvious answer, it actually isn't that straightforward. The *Cosmetics Regulation* sets out a legal definition for cosmetic products. It has to do one of the following things to legally be considered a cosmetic:

- clean
- perfume
- change appearance
- correct body odour
- protect
- keep in good condition

It also needs to be a substance or a mixture. As an example, false nails, which are glued onto the natural nail are not cosmetics, because they are solid articles, not a substance or mixture.



Professional products are included in the Cosmetics Regulation

Cosmetics used and/or sold in salons by professionals must meet all the requirements of the *Cosmetics Regulation* by law. This means they must meet the same high standards of safety as all other cosmetic products on the UK market.

Cosmetics: are they safe?

Cosmetics are applied directly to skin, hair and nails so it's crucial that they are safe to use. Years of scientific research and testing goes into making each and every item in salons, bathroom cabinets and make-up bags. It takes teams of scientists to develop just one new product.

We can all be confident in cosmetic products because they are controlled by strict safety legislation – the *European Cosmetics Regulation* (EC) no. 1223/2009. In fact, because of the importance of maintaining a gold standard of cosmetic safety now the UK has left the EU, the UK government prepared its own UK cosmetics legislation back at the beginning of 2019, so that we were ready in case the UK left the EU without a deal. This legislation reflects the safety requirements of the current EU Cosmetics Regulation. The Cosmetics Regulation applies to all cosmetic and personal care products available on the UK market. This not only includes cosmetics sold in shops and online, but also free samples and products used in salons by professionals.

The main purpose of the *Cosmetics Regulation* is to ensure safety of the end user, including both consumers and professional users. The manufacturer or supplier of the cosmetic product is responsible for ensuring it is safe and complies with the legislation. They must do this before making it available to consumers or professionals for use.

In fact, every new product must undergo a full safety assessment before it is allowed on the shelves. Safety assessments can't just be carried out by anyone; it is a legal requirement that the person conducting the safety assessment has advanced degrees in toxicology, medicine or very similar subjects. The assessment is very

Animal testing

Cosmetic products sold in Europe are not tested on animals. This is true whether or not the product makes a claim about being cruelty-free or animal-friendly. It has been against the law to animal test cosmetic products sold in the EU, or their ingredients, for more than 10 years (but we were way ahead of that in the UK).

in-depth and looks at the finished product, all of the ingredients and how products will be used and by whom, including use by consumers, professionals and their clients.

These assessments may be inspected at any time by the enforcement authority, Trading Standards in the UK, which means companies are accountable for every decision they make.

For more information about the safety of cosmetics, you can see the CTPA's handy booklet on *Confidence in Cosmetics* for professionals, consumers and the media at www.thefactsabout.co.uk.

How the CTPA can help you

CTPA has two websites. The first, www.ctpa.org.uk, provides detailed information and help to all members and useful advice for cosmetic companies that aren't members of CTPA, or those thinking of setting up their own brand or company. It has a fantastic and detailed FAQ section, which answers all the questions you might have on how to sell cosmetics in the UK and be compliant with the law. In fact, if you want to reassure yourself that the cosmetics you're using on your clients are legally compliant, you might want to look at the section 'Understanding your label' on the CTPA's other website, www.thefactsabout.co.uk, to know what sort of things to look for on the product label which have to be there by law.

The CTPA's other website, www.thefactsabout.co.uk, puts into perspective the myths and scare stories about cosmetics that are often seen in the media. It provides factual information that can help you answer questions from customers on topics such as the safety of specific ingredients, allergy and animal testing.

The CTPA has also recently created, in collaboration with other experts, some great guidance for nail professionals and customers. It offers a free booklet with tips on best practice to minimise the risk of developing an allergy, and another free guide on what you and your customers should do if either of you has an unwanted reaction to a cosmetic product, such as artificial UV gel nails.

Both of these guides and more can be found on the Allergies page at www.thefactsabout.co.uk.

The CTPA is always looking to make sure it is answering and addressing the top questions consumers have about cosmetic products, so if you or your clients want to know about something that isn't on thefactsabout.co.uk, email the team on info@ctpa.org.uk.



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