

Quick guide to cosmetic requirements at approved farmers' markets

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) is committed to the long-term success of Alberta approved farmers' markets and the vendors who choose to sell through them. One way to achieve this is through increasing the level of knowledge of market managers and vendors. The purpose of this document is to provide an at-a-glance description of requirements for cosmetics/personal care products. Vendors are responsible for knowing and complying with the requirements for their products.

The federal definition of a cosmetic is:

"any substance or mixture of substances, manufactured, sold or represented for use in cleansing, improving or altering the complexion, skin, hair or teeth and includes deodorants and perfumes."

This includes "handmade" cosmetics sold at farmers' markets or craft sales, e.g., face creams, lip balms, deodorants, perfumes, etc.

All cosmetics sold in Canada must be safe to use and must not pose a health risk. They must meet the requirements of the *Food and Drugs Act* and the *Cosmetic Regulations*.

Cosmetic notification

The manufacturer and importer must notify Health Canada within 10 days of the first sale of the product in Canada that it is selling the product and provide a list of the product's ingredients. Complete the Cosmetic Notification Form found on the Health Canada website - canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/cosmetics.html.

There is no charge to register the cosmetic "recipe" with the federal government; it is required to ensure that all ingredients and their quantities within the product are safe for customers.

Labelling requirements

The label on a cosmetic product serves three primary functions:

- Contains information to help consumers make informed decisions about the products they use;

- Provides information on how to safely use the product; and
- How to contact the manufacturer

Cosmetic manufacturers should view the label as a vehicle for marketing, promotion and advertising.

The labelling of cosmetics is governed by two Acts and their associated Regulations:

- the [Food and Drugs Act](#) and the [Cosmetic Regulations](#), and
- the [Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act](#) and the [Consumer Packaging and Labelling Regulations](#)

Manufacturers and importers should review and understand the Acts and Regulations to ensure that they comply with all requirements.

To comply with the requirements, according to Sections 17 to 27 of the *Cosmetic Regulations*, cosmetic labels must include:

- The name of the product in English and French;
- The name and address of the manufacturer or distributor;
- The instructions for safe use, including warnings, in English and French;
- The list of ingredients in INCI format (International Nomenclature of Cosmetic Ingredients);
- The net quantity, in metric measuring units (this requirement falls under the *Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act*. For more information, consult the [Guide](#).

Health Canada has developed an [Industry Guide for the labelling of cosmetics](#) to help industry develop compliant labels.

You can find detailed information on cosmetic labelling in the guides below.

Industry Guide for the labelling of cosmetics:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/industry-professionals/labelling-cosmetics.html>

Guide to Cosmetic Ingredient Labelling:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/industry-professionals/guide-cosmetic-ingredient-labelling.html>

Cosmetic Ingredient Hotlist:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/cosmetics/cosmetic-ingredient-hotlist-prohibited-restricted-ingredients/hotlist.html>

Additionally, the Competition Bureau has labelling requirements under the [Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act](#) (CPLA). Questions about the CPLA should be directed to the Competition Bureau of Canada.

Their contact information can be found here:

<https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/competition-bureau-canada/en/contact-information-centre>