

Identifying PFAS in your cosmetic products

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of over 4,700 chemicals. They include:

- Perfluorosulfonic acid (PFSA)
- Perfluorocarboxylic acid (PFCA), such as Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its derivatives (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
- Common in cosmetics: Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), perfluorooctyl triethoxysilane, perfluorononyl dimethicone, perfluorodecalin, and perfluorohexane.

Not all PFAS have been identified and some cause toxic effects.

These human-made substances are widely used in several sectors of activity and commercial items, including cosmetic products.

PFAS are often added deliberately as ingredients in some cosmetic products to condition and smoothen the skin, making it appear shiny, or to affect product consistency and texture, as well as to make the product 'long-lasting', 'water-proof' or 'wear-resistant'. In addition, they might appear as unintended degradation products or impurities from the production of the PFAS's precursors used in certain cosmetic products.

Some of them are considered as toxic and could be absorbed by and accumulated in the human body for a long time, acting as a kind of 'forever chemical' that generates adverse health effects.

Key regulatory updates

Regulating authorities face a significant challenge due to the numerous forms of PFAS, the lack of comprehensive scientific data, and the common practice of replacing banned PFAS with non-regulated alternatives.

European Union

- Some PFAS classified as SVHC.
- PFOA, PFOS, PFDA, and PFNA banned under Annex II of the EU Cosmetic Regulation (EC) No. 1223/2009.
- The proposed REACH restriction could ban thousands of PFAS, making it the most extensive regulation to date.

France

- 2023-2027 PFAS action plan – Reducing industrial emissions & limiting exposure.
- New law (Feb. 2025): PFAS banned in cosmetics, clothing & waxes from Jan. 1, 2026 (limited exemptions).

United States

- PFOA & PFOS removed from consumer products.
- MoCRA mandates PFAS evaluation in cosmetics.
- California (AB 2771): PFAS ban in cosmetics from 2025.
- 'No PFAS in Cosmetics' Act proposes banning PFAS in make-up, moisturisers & perfumes.

**More countries are
tightening regulations
Global bans are
accelerating!**



Our Offer

- **Regulatory compliance:** Anticipate evolving requirement to ensure product safety.
- **Advanced analytical services:** Detect, quantify, and manage PFAS in formulations and packaging.
- **Multiple matrices & ultra-low LOQs:** Highly sensitive methods across various matrices.
- **In-house method development:** Tailored approaches aligned with your company's strategy and policy.
- **Global expertise:** Deep regulatory and scientific knowledge across Europe, Australia, and the U.S.

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