

Identifying PFAS in your make-up 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.

What is new about PFAS?

The regulating authorities face a real challenge due to the numerous forms of PFAS, the lack of comprehensive scientific data, and the common practice that forbidden PFAS were simply replaced by non-regulated substances.

Within the EC, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has set a safety threshold for the main PFAS that accumulate in the body: some PFAS are listed as SVHC substances, PFOA and PFOS including its salts and related compounds are part of the Stockholm Convention (POPs Regulation), as well as the manufacture and use of some PFAS is being restricted under REACH. However, the Cosmetic Regulation (EC) No. 1223/2009 has not yet included PFAS.

In the U.S, PFOA and PFOS were removed from consumer products.

After recent publications indicating the potential presence of PFAS in make-up products, US senators introduced the 'No PFAS in Cosmetics' Act, which would direct the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) banning the inclusion of PFAS chemicals in cosmetics products, such as make-up, moisturizer, perfume, etc.



Our offer

As the leader in analytical testing, Eurofins network of companies has developed a test protocol determining PFAS in your make-up products. Thereby, we support you ensuring that your products are safe for the end users.

Our test protocol comprises PFOA, PFNA, PFDeA, PFUnA, PFDoA, PFTrA, and PFTA with a LOQ of 2.5 ng/g.



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