



ASEAN Cosmetic Directive (ACD)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN*) lays down the new harmonized cosmetic requirements in order to facilitate the movement of cosmetic products within the region of ASEAN. Cosmetics produced or marketed in any signatory country and meet the requirements would be able to enter other signatory countries.

**ASEAN was established in 1967 and includes 10 member countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.*

By January 1, 2008, member countries are committed to implement the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive (ACD). Company or person responsible for placing the cosmetic products in the market must notify the regulatory authority responsible for cosmetics of each member state where the product will be marketed, of the place of manufacture or of initial importation before the product is placed in the market. The product can only be marketed after notification has been sent to the regulatory authority and acknowledgement has been received. However, a grace period of 36 months has been granted to existing products provided that products are still categorized as cosmetics and do not contain any banned ingredients.

The most significant aspect of this scheme is that all ASEAN member countries will move from the traditional approach of "premarket approval" to the new approach of "post-market surveillance" for cosmetic products. Meanwhile, only Malaysia, Singapore and Philippines has fully implemented the ACD, while other member countries are still at the preparatory stage of the legislation. It is expected to be finalized by the first quarter of year 2008.

The ACD adopts the Cosmetic Ingredient Listings of the EU Cosmetic Directive 76/768/EEC. However, future amendments to the listings of the EU Cosmetic Directive shall be considered and discussed by the ASEAN Cosmetic Committee before adopting by the member countries.

Intertek is a leading consumer product testing, inspection and certification services provider. With state-of-the-art equipment and professionally trained laboratory technicians, Intertek offers a full set of safety assessment services for cosmetic products. Through extensive experience that we have acquired over the years, Intertek has an established reputation as a leader in the field.

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