



NSF/ANSI 305 STANDARD PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS FAQ



Oregon Tilth is proud to offer certification to NSF/ANSI 305.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture do not have rules that outline clear definitions for “organic” cosmetics. The NSF/ANSI 305 Personal Care Standard presents well-defined labeling and processing requirements for personal care products that contain organic ingredients. It is owned by NSF International and was developed under American National Standard Institute (ANSI) rules for making standards. It is a private, voluntary standard.



WHAT IS REQUIRED TO MEET NSF/ANSI 305 STANDARD?

NSF/ANSI 305 defines labeling, processing and marketing requirements for personal care products that contain organic ingredients. A brief overview of what is required to achieve the standard includes, but is not limited to:

- Minimum 70% organic content (from USDA NOP or EU organic ingredients)
- May include non-organic ingredients made from natural raw materials that were processed according to the rules stated in NSF/ANSI 305
- No GMO derived ingredients may be used
- No petrochemical based ingredients may be used unless they are specifically on the “allowed list” (for example, sulfur is not available from any other source)
- The “allowed list” includes specific preservatives, citric acid and other ingredients that are necessary for the safety of the finished product
- All formulas and labels must be approved by the certifier
- Facilities must be inspected annually (and inspections can be combined with an USDA NOP inspection to save time and money)
- Other rules are in the standard, most of which are usually met by SOPs and GMPs



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WHY IS THERE A DIFFERENT ORGANIC STANDARD FOR PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS?

The USDA National Organic Program (NOP) was developed for food production and processing. Some personal care products that comply with the NOP may be certified to current regulations.

However, not all ingredients used in personal care product manufacturing are compliant with NOP standards. The NSF/ANSI-305 provides a certification standard for personal care product making organic label and marketing claims. It also provides assurance to consumers that products have met the strict requirements of the standard.

WHAT PRODUCTS DOES NSF/ANSI-305 COVER?

NSF/ANSI 305 includes but is not limited to all personal care products:

- rinse-off and leave-on body care
- skin care
- soaps and washes
- color cosmetics
- oral care
- personal hygiene
- wipes
- over-the-counter products (certain restrictions apply)

HOW WAS THE STANDARD DEVELOPED?

NSF/ANSI 305 was developed using rules set by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), a nonprofit organization that oversees the creation, promulgation and use of certification standards. ANSI is also actively engaged in accrediting programs that assess conformance to various standards. Stakeholders involved in the development of NSF/ANSI 305 included participants in all aspects of cosmetic production and oversight.

WHAT ARE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR NSF/ANSI 305?

NSF/ANSI 305 follows the same guiding principles as the USDA NOP:

- to protect the environment
- to avoid the use of toxic ingredients in the manufacturing of organic products
- to ensure traceability

NSF/ANSI 305 products make use of organic agricultural ingredients and non-GMO ingredients, provide assurances that manufacturing and storage is free from contamination or commingling, require quality recordkeeping to ensure traceability of ingredients, and only use environmentally benign processing methods for non-organic ingredients.



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HOW IS THE STANDARD MAINTAINED?

NSF International maintains and owns the standard. Oregon Tilth is an accredited certifier of NSF/ANSI 305. NSF International appoints and administers the Joint Committee on Organic Personal Care that oversees and reviews potential changes to the standard. The process for amendment is an open submission – anyone is able to through the open submission of “issue papers” to request a change or clarification to the standard. If it is determined to be in the best interest of the standard, the issue is balloted and voted on by the entire Joint Committee.



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HOW DO I GET CERTIFIED FOR NSF/ANSI 305 WITH OREGON TILTH?

For stand-alone NSF/ANSI 305 clients, just fill out a Class OPC (Organic Personal Care) Organic System Plan that covers recordkeeping, sanitation, ingredient sourcing and more.

For clients already certified to the USDA NOP, one would fill out a Class OPC Supplement that covers all differences between NOP and NSF/ANSI 305. Other application forms include a product formulation sheet (listing ingredients and percentages in formulations), a master product list (all products seeking certification by the product name) and the master ingredient list (lists all ingredients by name, manufacturer and certifier if applicable).

All of this information is available on the Oregon Tilth website at: <http://www.tilth.org/certification/forms/personal-care-products/>

FOR MORE, IN-DEPTH INFORMATION:

Please view our introductory webinar discussing all of these questions and more for NSF/ANSI 305 Personal Care Standard on our Resource Library archive:

<http://www.tilth.org/resources/introduction-to-the-nsfansi-305-personal-care-program/>