

# Guide to COSMOS V4 Standard Changes

This guide has been created to give an overview of the 6 main changes in version 4 of the COSMOS standards, what this means for you and the implementation date(s) whereby products/procedures must be compliant with the new standards.

We recommend reading the standards in full for an overview of all changes.

## Key Dates

As per [Transition Measures Update](#) issued on 30/05/2023 by COSMOS

For  
Standards  
click [here](#)

**Jan 2023**

COSMOS v4 Standards  
Published

**Jun 2024**

**New products** must meet v4  
of the standards

**Dec 2025**

**Existing products** must meet  
v4 of the standards

**Jun 2023**

**New raw materials** must meet  
V4 of the standards

**Dec 2024**

**Existing raw materials** must meet  
v4 of the standards



### Raw Materials

COSMOS Certified Ingredients (CC) / Approved Raw Materials for COSMOS (ACS) / Approved Raw Materials on list of approved ingredients

### Products

COSMOS Organic (CS) / COSMOS Natural (CN)



Implementation date: 1<sup>st</sup> Jun 2024 (New Products) / 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025 (Old Products)

## Summary of Change(s)

Palm oil, palm kernel oil and their derivatives used in cosmetic products and cosmetic ingredients must be:

- certified organic or
- certified sustainable to one of the following standards: RSPO, SAN, RSB or UEBT

This applies to raw materials and when part of a blend/mixture

## Evidence Required

### Organic

#### Valid organic certificate listing raw material/blend/mixture

Certificate must be from your direct supplier

### Non-Organic

#### Raw Material

#### Valid certificate showing certification, to one of the accepted sustainable standards, listing the ingredient

Certificate *should* be from your direct supplier, however a certificate from further up the supply chain can be accepted so long as there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate this is the source of the ingredient i.e. invoices, delivery notes, etc.

#### Blend/Mixture

**CSPO certificate listing blend/mixture or**

**Statement from the supplier producing the blend, stating that they only use sustainable ingredients and**

**Valid certificate of the supplier producing the ingredient to one of the accepted sustainable standards**

Implementation date: 1<sup>st</sup> Jun 2024 (New Products) / 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025 (Old Products)

## Summary of Change(s)

- **8 mineral origin ingredients no longer permitted**

aluminium sulfate, barium sulfate, copper, copper sulphate, silver chloride, ferrous sulfate, potassium thiocyanate, zinc carbonate

- **Titanium dioxide permitted in sunscreen and decorative cosmetic products only**

- **CI 77288 permitted under appendix V until alternatives are available**

- **Minerals may be treated with physical processes listed in appendix I**

- **Mineral origin ingredients must comply with 4 Green Chemistry principles (listed in the standards)**

- **COSMOS *recommend* due diligence on sourcing and independent certification (e.g. MICA standard)**

- **Quantitative SEM analysis results required to be provided if the following used:**

cerium dioxide, hydroxyapatite, silica, titanium dioxide, zinc oxide

## Evidence Required

### Completed Raw Material Questionnaire (RMQ) [v6]

Additional questions and information requested as part of RMQ

### Quantitative SEM analysis results

If applicable

Implementation date: 1<sup>st</sup> Jun 2024 (New Products) / 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025 (Old Products)

## Summary of Change(s)

### New plants added to mandatory list of PPAIs that must be organic (COSMOS Organic only)

24 new plants added – see Appendix VI for full list of plants, including common and INCI names

### Wild plants accepted if organic certified

## Evidence Required

### Single Ingredient PPAI & Wild Plants

#### Valid organic certificate listing ingredient

Certificate must be from your direct supplier

### Blend/Mixture (less than 3 components)

#### Valid organic certificate listing ingredient or certified blend

Certificate must be from your direct supplier

### Complex Mixture (more than 3 components)

All components listed in appendices VI/VII of the standards

#### Valid organic certificate listing certified blend

Certificate must be from your direct supplier

#### Exception

if complex mixture contains at least one component **not** listed in Appendices VI/VII then none of the components have to be from organic agriculture.

Implementation date: 1<sup>st</sup> Jun 2024 (New Products) / 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025 (Old Products)

## Summary of Change(s)

It is forbidden to use primary raw materials harvested / collected by threatened species listed in the [IUCN red list](#) [Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable (VU)]

Applies to PPAs only

## Evidence Required

Evidence from your supplier confirming no threatened species are used for harvesting/collection purposes, such as:

- An attestation or declaration
- Product sourcing or supplier policy



We are currently aware of this applying to coconuts that are harvested by Northern & Southern Pig-tailed Macaques (both appear on the IUCN red list) however further raw materials/species may apply

Implementation date: 1<sup>st</sup> Jun 2024 (New Products) / 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025 (Old Products)

## Summary of Change(s)

**Each SKU must comply with a minimum of 3 indicators from (a minimum of) 2 different principles**

See standard x for list of indicators and principles

**Packaging should be improved against standard criteria at least every three years**

It must be demonstrated that opportunities for improvements were reviewed

**Records of packaging material quantities used against quantities of sales unit must be kept**

## Evidence Required

**New COSMOS packaging form**

Correctly completed confirming compliance

**Evidence to demonstrate packaging and opportunities for improvements have been reviewed**

Required every 3 years, for example:

- Meeting minutes
- Packaging Policy
- Product testing results

**Records showing packaging material quantities used against quantities of sales unit (in-number of in-weights)**

Implementation date: See Summary of Changes

## Summary of Change(s)

Sulfated emulsifiers not permitted - 1st Jun 2024 (New Products) / 1st Dec 2025 (Old Products)

Sulfated surfactants only permitted for rinse off products - 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2029

## Evidence Required

**Completed Raw Material Questionnaire (RMQ) [v6]**

Additional questions and information requested as part of RMQ