

No cosmetic products may be manufactured, imported into, exported from, advertised, sold or distributed in Nigeria unless it has been registered with the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC).

NAFDAC approval

Approval is granted for each specific product. This means that two cosmetic products from the same source will require different approvals and registration numbers – in fact, two different packages of the same cosmetic product are processed as different products.

Regulated products manufactured both locally and outside Nigeria must meet certain requirements as approved by NAFDAC to qualify to be registered in Nigeria. **Note: Mercury and its compounds and corticosteroids are not permitted in cosmetic products, and lanolin and boric acid are not permitted in baby products.**

NAFDAC carries out inspection of imported goods in various ports and monitor companies that manufacture these goods in Nigeria to ensure that they comply with these requirements.

Registration takes approximately 3 months to complete.

Procedure

The following information and documents are required for a cosmetic registration:

- An application for registration of a cosmetic product, stating the name of the manufacturer, name of the product, and the brand name (trade mark).
- A foreign manufacturer must be represented in Nigeria by a duly registered company or individual with facilities to effect a recall of the product when necessary.
- An applicant acting on behalf of a foreign company must file evidence of authorisation in the form of a notarized Power of Attorney from the manufacturer, or a notarized Contract Manufacturing Agreement duly signed by both parties.
- A Free Sale Certificate (Certificate of Manufacturer and Free Sale). This must be issued by the competent authority in the country of manufacture and authenticated by the Nigerian Mission in that country.
- Comprehensive Certificate of Analysis.
- Certificate of Business Incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission in Nigeria for the local representative.
- Certificate of Registration (or at least an acceptance letter) for the brand name (trade mark) of the product with the Trademark Registry in Nigeria
- A Letter of Invitation addressed to NAFDAC to inspect the factory abroad.
- A sample of the label of the product.

The label must contain the following information:

- Name of the product – the brand name must appear in bold letters.
- The name and full address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor of a cosmetic should be stated on both the inner and outer labels in such a manner that is easily readable.
- Batch number, date of Manufacture and expiry date.
- Net contents of essential ingredients in metric units.
- The ingredients must be listed by their common names in order of their presence by weight.
- The label must contain directions for safe use on the information panel or on package insert.
- Any regulated product which is labelled in a foreign language shall not be considered for registration unless an English translation is included on the label and package insert.
- Provision should be made for the NAFDAC Registration Number to feature.

Validity term of registration

Where all the documents are found to be satisfactory, NAFDAC will issue a registration certificate. The validity period of a registration certificate is five (5) years. Once this period is up, a new certificate must be obtained.

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