



What is an IFRA Certificate?

Fragrance compounds are regulated across the globe but standards vary from region to region. The International Fragrance Association (IFRA) provides a voice for the industry world wide. It promotes the safety of fragrances through codes of practice which insist on rigorous testing regimes for all components used in fragrances. The manufactures produce an IFRA Certificate once each product is tested. The certificate gives details about the safe concentration for use in various classes of product.

Why is it needed?

Fragrance can be used in many products, not just candles. However, because fragrances may contain chemicals which could be harmful if ingested or absorbed, it is important to have a way of determining the safe concentrations for a given product type. You can be confident that if a fragrance is covered by an IFRA Compliance Certificate that the substance has been assessed/tested and is safe to use in accordance with the guidelines on the certificate.

What does it contain?

The certificate is a statement of compliance with the appropriate standards governing the fragrance material and provides a maximum allowable concentration for use in each of the following classes of product:

IFRA Class	Example Product
Class 1	Lip Products of all types, Children's toys
Class 2	Deodorant and Antiperspirant Products of all types
Class 3.A	After Shaves (Edt Range)
Class 3.B	After Shaves (Fine Fragrance Range)
Class 3.C	Eye Products of all types, Facial Creams, Balms, Lotions and Oils
Class 3.D	Tampons
Class 4.A	Cologne, eau de cologne, Eau de Parfum or Parfum (Edt range)
Class 4.B	Cologne, eau de cologne, Eau de Parfum or Parfum (Fine fragrance range)
Class 4.C	Hair Styling Aids Sprays of all types
Class 4.D	Fragrancing Cream; Solid perfumes
Class 5	Women's Facial Creams/Facial Make-up; Hand Cream; Hand sanitizers; Facial Masks; Baby Powder and Talc
Class 6	Mouthwash, including Breath Sprays; Toothpaste
Class 7.A	Intimate Wipes; Baby Wipes
Class 7.B	Insect Repellent (intended to be applied to the skin)
Class 8.A	Make-up Removers of all types (not including face cleansers); Hair Styling Aids Non-Spray of all types (mousse, gels, leave-in conditioners, etc.); Nail Care; Powders and Talcs, all types (except baby powders and talcs)
Class 8.B	Hair Dyes
Class 9.A	Conditioner (Rinse-Off); Liquid Soap; Shampoos of all types (including baby shampoos); Face Cleansers of all types(washes, gels, scrubs, etc.)
Class 9.B	Feminine hygiene - pads, liners; Toilet paper; Wheat bags
Class 9.C	Facial tissues; Napkins; Paper towels; Other Aerosols (including air freshener sprays and air freshener pump sprays, but not including deodorants/antiperspirants, hair styling aids sprays)
Class 10.A	Handwash Laundry Detergents of all types including concentrates; Fabric Softeners of all types including fabric softener sheets; Household Cleaning Products
Class 10.B	Baby Nappies; Toilet seat wipes
Class 11	All non-skin contact or incidental skin contact including: Candles; Air Fresheners and Fragrancing of all types (concentrated aerosol with metered doses (range 0.05-0.5mL/spray), plug-ins, solid substrate, membrane delivery

Using the IFRA Certificate

If you are intending to use fragrances in a product, it is crucial that you understand what the maximum safe concentration is for that product and never exceed the limit. So, determine the applicable product classification on page 3 of the IFRA Certificate then from the table on page one of the certificate, look up the maximum safe percentage which can be used.

NB: Unless otherwise specified, "concentrations" are expressed in weight-weight percent.

EXAMPLE

As an example, take our IFRA Cert for 'A Merry Morning' Fragrance. Lets assume we want to make a lip gloss. Checking the certificate we see that Lip Products are 'Class 1'. Now turning to page one we see the maximum percentage by weight for this type of product with this fragrance is: 'Not Approved' - we could not use this fragrance in a Lip Gloss.

Ok, so lets try instead an after shave lotion. From page 3 we see this is class 3A product. Now turning to the table on page 1 we see the maximum percentage we could use is 3.63%

IMPORTANT: *It is crucial to remember that any product which is going to be used externally on the human body, must by law be tested and certified before it can be sold. The manufacture of the product is responsible for this, not the manufacturer of the raw ingredients.*

There are various EU directives to make yourself aware of if you intend to make cosmetic products. A good place to start might be: [The Cosmetic Products Enforcement Regulations 2013](https://www.TheCosmeticProductsEnforcementRegulations2013)