NCS

Natural Cosmetics Standard

Natural cosmetics for humans, pets and the environment

A standard of GfaW Gesellschaft für angewandte Wirtschaftsethik mbH (Society of Applied Ethics in Business)

Developed in cooperation with EcoControl GmbH, INCI-Experts GmbH, Ingenieurbüro E.C. Schweig GmbH and the working group “raw material”

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1. Introduction

The standard owner and developer GfaW Gesellschaft für angewandte Wirtschaftsethik mbH wants to promote organic farming, the transformation to petrochemical and GMO-free[1] "consumer products" produced with the closest possible proximity to natural processes. It assumes that products produced in this way are a lesser burden on the environment than conventional ones.

The Natural Cosmetics Standard NCS regulates the requirements of certified natural cosmetics. “Natural cosmetics” are conceived of as cosmetic products, the ingredients of which are untreated and/or arise from natural raw materials. In case of a successful certification of the declared products, the NCS label can be used for marketing purposes.

The NCS Standard regulates the quality of a product's ingredients but not the composition of the product itself. Certification is not bound to the membership of any institution and is therefore an option for manufacturers who do not want to be associated with any organisation and simply wish to have their organic ingredients certified.

The NCS Standard serves as a basis for the design of customised natural cosmetic products. It assures the quality of ingredients according to the generally valid definition of natural

[1] The standard owner is extremely critical of the genetic engineering process. At present, the risk in many places is not foreseeable. The achievements in medicine are indisputable. However, for products that consumers need in their everyday lives and would find in a supermarket, the risk is rather high if genetic engineering has been used in the process. Weighing up the benefits and risks for consumers, GfaW concludes that the risk outweighs the benefits and therefore advocates freedom from genetic engineering for the scope of the standard.

cosmetics. Furthermore, it simplifies access for the first-time manufacturer of natural cosmetics.

Requirements that are already covered through Cosmetics Regulation, waste disposal regulations, labour law, etc. are not part of this standard. It requires compliance with the legal provision, in particular with regard to Regulation (EC) 648/2004 (Detergents Regulation) and its amendments, Regulation (EC) 528/2012 (Biocides Regulation) , Regulation (EC) 1272/2008 (CLP) as well as Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 (REACH), and the so-called Supply Chain Act. The requirements of the NCS go beyond these regulations.

The NCS is composed of the criteria and an annex.

The NCS label for marking products also provides customers with sound guidance. Users of the mark may also list the ingredients with organic quality. An NCS-certified product can be advertised as "organic cosmetics" if at least 95% of the ingredients of agricultural origin are of organic quality.

Building on this product certification, the standard setter recommends the CSE Certified Sustainable Economics https://gfaw.eu/ certification and the climate accounting tool for the basis of a corporate carbon footprint (https://gfaw.eu/ergaenzende-nachhaltigkeits-leistungen/).

2. Impact and effects of the NCS standard

The aim of the standard is to replace petrochemical-based, GMO-oriented and environmentally harmful products with less environmentally harmful products. This required that consumers recognize such products.

Another goal is to promote recyclable packaging to contribute to the circular economy.
To achieve these goals, NCS provides a means of differentiation at the point of sale with its catalog of criteria for ingredients and packaging, as well as the labeling of products with the NCS seal.
Every product that is NCS certified helps realize the transformation to a petrochemical-free and circular economy.

Specifically, this means:

Minimizing environmental impact as much as possible:
- Strict criteria on petrochemicals.
- Only chemical processes permitted that also occur in nature's metabolic processes

As few products as possible from genetic engineering processes:
- Strict criteria on ingredients in which genetic engineering is involved

Promotion of organic farming:
- Recommendation to use as many raw materials from organic farming as possible
- Mandatory organic quality for defined oils

Closest possible proximity to nature:
- If raw materials are obtained by means of chemical processes, these must correspond to the metabolic processes in plants/nature. They are listed in the standard.

Circular economy:
- Criteria on the design of packaging according to priority sequence.
- Criteria on the permitted materials according to the requirement to achieve the highest possible recyclability.

3. Scope of application

The NCS refers to all cosmetic products intended for humans and animals. In this context, cosmetic products are defined as substances or mixtures that are intended to come into external contact with parts of the human body or with teeth and oral mucosa, for the sole purpose of cleaning them, perfuming them, changing their appearance, protecting them, keeping them in good condition or having an impact on body odours.

4. Assortment requirements

If the manufacturer offers cosmetic products which are not in compliance with the natural cosmetics directive, these products must be clearly differentiated through appropriate marking or other aspects of appearance. The NCS Standard may only be applied for if at least

60% of the product assortment (with reference to the total number of products in the assortment) are natural products. All necessary testing records of the natural cosmetics assortment must therefore be provided, irrespective of the number of natural products to be certified.

In the case of using several natural cosmetic standards at least 60% of all products have to be registered as NCS and labelled with NCS.

1. General Criteria

NCS certified products are composed **solely** of raw materials named in the NCS Standard and produced only through processes named in the NCS standard. The appendix contains an open list of compliant INCIs (Appendix 1) and a positive list of nature-identical substances (Appendix 2). Annex 1 serves as orientation in product conception. It is continuously extended by newly approved INCIs.

The qualities of the approved raw materials are described in the criteria.

Surfactants must be biodegradable by more than 60% within 28 days according to OECD Test 310 (EN ISO 14593) and 311 (EN ISO 11734).

Animal-testing for the purposes of the production or distribution of NCS certified products is forbidden.

With regard to GMO freedom, the requirements of the EC Organic Regulation (Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007, until 31.12.2008, Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91) apply to the end product and the raw materials used. This requirement also applies to ingredients that would not be covered by the Organic VO, such as non-food substances and non-organic certified material.[2]

[2] The substances are neither produced from nor produced by nor with the help of genetically modified organisms. Evidence for plants is the PCR method (the threshold of a random, technically unavoidable admixture is 0.9%) and for the other substances a GMO declaration of freedom of the manufacturer. Selected raw materials which cannot be produced without enzymes from genetically modified organisms according to the current state of the art and which are marked separately in the positive list will be given a tolerance period until the end of 2022. A query on the declaration of freedom will be provided by the standard provider.

2. Definition

Composite packaging: Packaging consisting of different types of material which cannot be separated manually, none of which exceeds 95% by mass of the total packaging.

Foreign materials: Material composition other than the basic packaging - e.g. sleeves or labels.

Impurities: Substances that interfere with or prevent the recycling process according to the current state of the art.

NIR: Near Infrared. NIR (near infrared) refers to a spectrum in a range between 760 and 2,500 nm that is not visible to humans. In this wavelength range, material-typical patterns based on molecular vibrations can be detected after excitation with light. This technology is used for sorting packaging.

Recyclability: Recyclability is the individual gradual suitability of a packaging or a product to actually substitute material-identical new goods in the post-use phase; "actual" here means that collection and recovery structures on an industrial scale are a prerequisite.

Recycling share: Share of recycled raw materials in relation to the total of raw materials.

Synthetic: This standard defines "synthetic" as anything that originates from a chemical process that would not occur in nature in this way and/or is of petrochemical origin.

3. Definition of permitted raw material groups

Cosmetic ingredients permitted by NCS are classified into the following raw material groups:

- **Natural raw material**: chemical unmodified raw material of vegetable, inorganic-mineral or animal origin as well as their mixtures and reaction-products with each other.
- **Derived natural raw material**: Raw material obtained from natural material as defined above through permitted chemical reactions (see Annex 2).

- **Nature-identical inorganic pigments and minerals**: Raw material, the chemical composition of which is identical to natural pigments and minerals (see Annex 2).
- **Nature-identical preservatives:** Raw material, the chemical composition of which is identical to natural substances and which is used as a preservative.

4. Raw Materials and their Processes

For production of NCS certified products the following raw materials and processes are permitted:

4.1 Natural Raw Material

Natural raw materials are obtained only through physical processes using extraction and auxiliary agents listed in point 3.4. All natural materials are preferably derived from certified organic raw material (kbA or kbT).

Furthermore enzymatic and microbiological methods are permitted as long as naturally occurring enzymes and micro-organisms are used.

Raw materials descend from rare or protected species of animals may only be used when they are taken from live animals which are reared in a cruelty-free way which is appropriate to their species. Raw materials of vegetable origin from protected or rare species of plants may not be used, unless the material comes from alive animals in a way that is in line with the conservation of the specie.. Critical substances in terms of sustainability such as palm oil should be avoided. If the use of palm oil or palm kernel oil cannot be avoided, it must at least be of RSPO-certified origin. The standard owner recommends that producers request information from suppliers about relevant aspects related to the sustainability and origins of all raw materials used in their products.

4.1.1 Plant-based Natural Raw Material

The following Raw Material originate from certified organic agriculture:

Sunfloweroil, oliveoil, soyoil, coconutoil, jojobaoil.[3] Sheabutter originates either from Organic agriculture or from wild-harvest.

The following natural substances originate at least from RSPO cultivation**:**

Palm oil and palm kernel oil

Raw materials whose cultivation is critical in terms of sustainability, such as palm oil, are only tolerated with a demonstrable weighing of priorities.

The use of chemically unmodified vegetable raw materials (essential oils, fatty oils in extracts etc.) is basically permitted. Plants are not subject to the approval process for the white-list and need not be listed in it. The EC Cosmetics Regulation, in particular for the protection of human health, must be taken into account. It is the manufacturer´s responsibility to use only harmless raw materials.

Raw materials gained from fermentation or biotechnological processes are also permitted in so far as they exclusively occur in nature. They are not subject to the approval process for the white-list, nor need they be listed in it. If the raw material corresponds to an agricultural product, it is included in the organic calculation.

4.1.2 Animal Natural Raw Material

The use of raw materials produced by animals (e.g. milk, honey) is permitted. The use of raw materials derived from dead vertebrates (e.g. emu oil, mink oil, marmot oil, animal fats, collagen and living cells) is not allowed.

4.1.3 Mineral Natural Raw Material

Natural raw material of mineral origin is permitted as long as it is chemically unmodified and was obtained through physical processes. Mineral salts such as magnesium sulphate or

[3] If the feedstock is temporarily unavailable in organic quality due to crop failure or political conditions (trade boycott or similar) or due to geographical reason – emerging countries, this unavailability is evidenced by documented demand from at least three different traders. If the raw material is not available in organic quality due to civil war in the country of production, the conventional quality from this country is preferred to the organic quality from another country. This serves the economic support of the country. Only when a safe control in this country can take place again, the organic quality should be used.

sodium chloride are allowed in NCS certified products. Exceptions can be found under point 5, "Non-permitted Raw Material".

4.1.4 Fragrances

Natural fragrances which comply with ISO Standard 9235 are permitted. Furthermore, fragrances produced through biotechnology can also be used.

Fragrances are not included in the white-list and do not have to be registered. A declaration of ISO 9235 compliance by the manufacturer is sufficient.

4.1.5 Water

Water is classified as a natural raw material as long as it originates from plants. As long as the origin is proven to be organically certified, it can be declared as such.

4.2 Derived Natural Raw Material

Modified raw material may be obtained from natural raw materials as defined above by using following chemical reactions: hydrolysis (including saponification), neutralisation, condensation with elimination of water, esterification, transesterification, hydrogenation, hydrogenolysis, dehydrogenation, glycosidation, phosphorylation, sulphatation, acylation, amidation, dimerization, oxidation (with oxygen, ozone and peroxides) and pyrolysis.

The application of Halogenated Organic Compounds for the modification of natural raw materials is not allowed.

4.3 Nature-identical Minerals and Pigments

Permitted nature-identical minerals, preservatives, pigments and vitamin are listed in the white-list in Annex 2.

4.4 Nature-identical Preservatives

If necessary for the general product safety, the following nature-identical preservatives are permitted in NCS certified products:

- benzoic acid and its salts

  – salicylic acid and its salts

  – sorbic acid and its salts

  – benzyl alcohol

- formic acid and its sodium salts
- dehydroacetic acid and its sodium salts*
- propionic acid and its sodium salts

If these preservatives are used, the additional phrase "preserved using ... [Name of the preservative]" on the packaging is required.

* As far as in accordance with directive 76/768/EWG, excluded from this are ethanolamine salts.

4.5 Auxiliary and Extraction Agents

Permitted extraction agents for natural materials are: water, ethanol of plant origin, carbon dioxide, fats and oil of plant origin, glycerine of plant origin. Beyond that, naturally occurring enzymatic and microbiological processes are allowed. If there is no alternative extract, extraction agents not complying with the NCS Standard are allowed. In such cases, the extraction agent must be reduced down to the limit of detection which is listed in the analytical method according to § 5e of EC Cosmetics Regulation.

Pretreatment with preservatives and processing aids must meet the requirements of the directive if they remain in the final product. The only exception is made for auxiliary agents which are used and then removed as far as state of the art technology allows (for example solvents).

All raw materials and processing aids (especially preservatives and processing aids) which are in the final product must be registered with their INCI title. This requirement applies irrespective of whether or not they legally constitute “ingredients” according to § 1 of the EC Cosmetic Regulation. When reporting the composition, sentence 2 of §1 of the EC Cosmetic Regulation does not apply.

4.6 Aerosol

Aerosol gases are ingredients of the product. NCS certified products may contain CO^2, nitrogen and compressed air.

5. Non-permitted Raw Material

The following material groups are not permitted in NCS certified products:

- EDTA complexing agents, glutaraldehyde, formaldehyde or formaldehyde releaser
- Halogenic organic compounds
- Synthetic fats, oil, waxes or silicones
- Aromatic amines, ethanolamin and –derivates
- Synthetic fragrances
- Ethoxylated raw materials
- Artificial musk compounds
- Phtalates
- PEG and PEG-Derivates
- Solid, insoluble polymers, especially if they are smaller than 5 mm

6. Nanomaterial

Ingredients that must be labelled as "nanomaterials" under the EU Cosmetics Regulation are not permitted in NCS-certified products. Excluded from this are substances that are coated. In this case, the material for coating must comply with this standard. [4], [5]

7. Radioactive Radiation

The treatment of vegetable and animal raw materials and the end products with ionising rays is not permitted.

[4] This applies to all formulations and products registered for certification after 01.08.2020. Products registered before 01.08.2020 are subject to a transition period until 31.12.2023 to adapt the formula to non-nano or coated raw materials.

[5] The current state of science does not allow any clear conclusion to be drawn about the risk or harmlessness of nanomaterials. (see https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/nanomaterialien-in-der-umwelt) Studies have so far only been conducted with non-coated particles. The coating prevents oxidation of the particles and thus increases the chance of better tolerability. Until further findings are available, the standard setter sees this criterion as a compromise.

8. Packaging

Valid for all packaging to be purchased from 01.01.2024[6]:

Natural products in environmentally harmful packaging do not go together. Especially not if the packaging gives a green impression even though it interferes with the recycling process or is even non-recyclable. The standard sets its criteria against such greenwashing packaging:

These packaging criteria apply to products marketed under own brand or own production for end consumers. Packaging for B2B transport or sale is not covered here.

In principle, when using packaging materials and packaging materials, care should be taken to ensure that the packaging task can be fulfilled with the lowest possible overall impact (economic, social, ecological).

The impact is always to be determined across the entire value chain (raw material production, processing, logistics, use, end of life, reprocessing and new raw material use).

Packaging is used according to the following order of priority:

1st priority Avoid: As little as possible. Guiding question is: Is the packaging indispensable?

2nd Priority Reduce: Packaging that is necessary should use as little material as possible. Guiding question is: Can the packaging material be reduced e.g. by refill possibilities?

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[6] Explanation of the criteria and recommendations for action

Section 21* of the Packaging Act provides for the implementation of financial incentives for the use of recyclable packaging. No recyclability will result in a payment by the distributors, but the use of at least 90% recyclable packaging provides for a reimbursement.

The standard setter therefore recommends, both from a financial and an environmental point of view, not only to adhere to the minimum requirements in this standard, but to follow the recommendations.

Particularly in the case of fibrous materials, it is often assumed that these are naturally recyclable. However, this can already be undermined by the wrong or too thick varnish, by hotmelts in folding boxes or by coatings and finishes. Information on the recyclability of fibrous materials can be found in the standard PTS-RH 021 97. In the case of fibrous materials, the origin should also be checked, since about half of the cellulose comes from Latin America and from eucalyptus monocultures. In order not to support this trend, it is important not only to see the certificate number of the producing company in the FSC supply chain tracking, but also to list the numbers of the incoming raw materials.

The recyclability of composite materials, plastics, glass and metal packaging is confirmed by companies such as HTP-cylcos, Interseroh or Clover. The EU is working to build a circular economy, so it makes sense to use as much recyclate, scrap or cullet in packaging as possible. The use of recyclate, for example in the fibre sector, also ensures that raw materials come from domestic collections rather than sources from other continents.

*"§ 21 Ecological design of the participation fees

(1) Within the framework of the assessment of the participation fees, systems shall be obliged to create incentives in order to
in the production of packaging subject to mandatory participation in the system
1. to promote the use of materials and combinations of materials in the production of packaging subject to system participation that can be recycled to the highest possible percentage, taking into account sorting and recovery practices, and
2. to promote the use of recycled materials and renewable raw materials. ..." (Packaging Act of 05.07.2017)

3rd priority Reuse: Prefer reusable to disposable packaging. This means that before disposable packaging made of recyclate is designed, it should be clarified whether a reusable system, regardless of its design, would not be possible. Guiding question is: Is there a reusable system for the planned packaging?

4. priority recyclability: recyclability of packaging and packaging materials, which is required by the EU and in Germany. This is not about a theoretical recyclability of materials, but about the recyclability of a complete packaging material (incl. closure and labels) in the existing recyclable material streams. Guiding question is: Is the packaging currently actually recyclable? Can it be easily allocated to the appropriate recyclable material streams by the consumer? [7]

5. priority dischargeability: residual dischargeability of the packaging. In order not to disturb the sorting and recycling process, the packaging must be easy to empty. Guiding question is: The packaging can be emptied of residues?

The materials listed in the appendix, which are marked **green**, may be used.

All **orange** and **red** marked materials are interfering materials for the recycling process.

The **orange** marked materials are tolerated, but are currently not recommended by the standard setter.

The materials marked in **red** may not be used.

Since the technical possibilities of the recycling industry are subject to immense change, the criteria and material list is reviewed every 2 years by the standard setter to ensure that it is up to date and, if necessary, adapted.

In addition, the following minimum requirements apply to materials:

Ban on PFAS.

The packaging used is free of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. If PFAS are found in the current packaging, the company will present an action plan to replace the packaging with PFAS-free packaging by 2027.

[7] In other words, the packaging / packaging materials should be marked in such a way that the consumer assigns them to the correct material stream. Furthermore, packaging and packaging materials must be automatically recognizable and sortable (NIR technology for sorting recyclable materials). In addition, it must be possible to process them in the existing material streams and convert them back to raw material / packaging material to an economical degree.

Paper packaging:

Fully recycled paper materials shall be preferred to virgin paper.

The recycled content in paper packaging corresponds to at least 50%. (Exceptions are granted in the food sector for specific legal requirements for the packaging).

Raw paper materials shall come from either FSC or PEFC sources.

Paper must not be bleached with chlorine or chlorine derivatives. Only TCF is allowed.

In particular, wet strength agents, greaseproofing agents and finishes based on PFC are not allowed. Coatings and laminations should generally not be used on paper materials.

Wood-based packaging:

The wood shall be from FSC or PEFC sources. Packaging must be constructed in such a way that separation of different materials is possible.

Plastic-based packaging:

No multilayer structures, except PE-/ PP-EVOH. If multilayer structures made of PE-EVOH and/or PP-EVOH are used, the company shall submit a plan of action for adapting the packaging to recyclable material by 2027. This does not apply to food products.

Requirements for the recycled content in plastic packaging in relation to the product type:

Material / Type of Product	Food	Cosmetics	Natural Product
PET	90%	90%	90%
PP	-*	50%**,***	80%**,***
PE	-*	50%**,***	80%**,***

*The possibility to use PE and/or PP with recycled content for food will be adapted to market conditions by the standard setter. Currently (as of end of 2023) there is no food compliance to be met with rPE and rPP.

** Unless an own recycling facility has been established and the return rate is not at 90% or the material to be purchased is contaminated with synthetic fragrances or genotoxic substances. In this case, the company will present an action plan on how it can gradually reduce the use of petrochemical-based virgin material by 2027.

*** Does not apply to product-contacting parts of the packaging if food conformity is required. Intelligent packaging solutions, e.g. with several layers that can be separated by consumers, are expressly desired.

No different plastics on front and back. Printing inks suitable for recycling (minimum standard : EuPIA compliant printing inks). If labels or sleeves made of foreign materials are used, they are smaller than 50% of the packaging surface (see minimum standard NIR interfering materials).

No PETG sleeves or components in PET bottles.

No cellulose-based labels in tight contact with polyolefin packaging except for overstickering standard labels or to save re-packaging.

No silicone components.

Adhesives:

Only REACH compliant adhesives may be used.

Glass packaging:

No permanently adhesive (non-water soluble/hydrophobic) large-area plastic labels.

9. Good Manufacturing Practice

The company that manufactures and/or markets NCS-certified products has established a quality management system (QM system) of traceability and quality controls in the sense of HACCP or cosmetic GMP (ISO 22716). The QM system must be expanded to include environmental protection and sustainability measures in the course of continuous improvement. Orientation to the Certified Sustainable Economics (CSE) standard is helpful here.

10. Requirements for Labelling

NCS certified products may be labelled as "certified natural cosmetics" and are allowed to bear the NCS mark.

The following labelling option are feasible:

1. A product certified by the NCS Standard may be labelled as an "organic cosmetic" if at least 95% of the ingredients originate from certified organic cultivation. In this case the percentage of organically cultivated ingredients must be calculated based on the total ingredients (for example 45% of the total ingredients are organically certified). Organic cosmetic products may bear the label "organic quality".
2. A NCS-certified product may be labelled as a vegan natural cosmetics if this consists only of ingredients that were neither produced from, nor by or with the aid of animal

substances. Any animal excipients such as gelatine filters or animal carriers are not permitted.

The ingredients of all NCS certified products must be declared on the packaging via the INCI register.

If ingredients of certified organic quality are included in the product, they may be characterised as follows:

- Details concerning the organic quality of ingredients are only reliable if they are listed in such a way that they can be unmistakably and precisely traced in the list of ingredients. Use of the phrase "organic quality" refers to the certified organic origin of the primary material. For example, the precise declaration with "*" can be used. This arrangement applies accordingly to all synonyms such as "bio", "organic" or "eco". The language is irrelevant.
- The proportion of organic quality ingredients is specified by its percentage and should be declared in whole numbers. Fractional numbers are rounded up to the next whole number.

  Permitted declarations, for example, are: "70% organic ingredients in the product, 100% of which are of organic quality".

  For reasons of space, this information can be given on the website instead of on the packaging.
- When calculating the percentage regarding point **5.2**, the following needs to be considered:
  - Ingredients of organic quality are measured in terms of their whole weight proportion, e.g. parts of plants, pressed juices, pressed oils, microorganism in their dissolution and essential oils.
  - Plant extracts can be measured in their whole weight proportion if the final product does not include extraction agents (e.g. CO2 extraction) or the remaining extraction agent itself has organic quality.

  Following formula may be used:

  $$X = P/(P+E) \times 100$$

  X = organic amount in extract, P = mass of used plant raw material, E = mass of used extraction agent

  - For concentrates, the weight of the primary material does not need to be calculated. The water added to the concentrate does not need to be considered.

11. Supplier Changes

In order to obtain a clear identification of the raw material, any change must be reported to the certification body. This concerns the supplier, the composition of the raw material and, if applicable, its manufacturing process.

The standard owner recommends that the producer requests information about sustainability and human rights from their suppliers. If desired, the standard owner can provide templates for this purpose.

12. Control and Certification Procedures

The certification and inspection bodies approved by the GfaW standards operate in accordance with ISO 17065 and have many years of experience in certifying natural products. GfaW concludes contracts with the certification bodies for the performance of certifications according to the GfaW standards. These contracts regulate the inspection and certification procedure, qualifications of the assessing and auditing persons, frequency and intensity of assessment, sampling protocols for assessment, sources of evidence to be assessed, minimum content of assessment reports and deadlines for submission of completed reports following assessments. Monitoring of compliance with the contractually stipulated agreements is carried out by GfaW.

Certification procedure

There is a two-stage procedure for the certification of the products:

1st stage: testing of the products including proof of quality requirements according to the standard.

2nd stage: performance of annual audits in production to verify compliance with the standard.

In detail this means: After registration of the products to be certified with the certification body and a preliminary inspection of the ingredients (stage 1), an initial audit takes place (stage 2), during which all necessary requirements are verified.

The certificate issued entitles the holder to use the respective mark, which is awarded by GfaW Gesellschaft für angewandte Wirtschaftsethik.

Further monitoring of conformity takes place through on-site audits depending on the risk classification.

Deviations and sanctions

If a product does not comply with the standard in stage 1, it does not receive a certificate. Stage 2 does not take place until all ingredients are compliant. The applicant then has time to change its formulation or replace the non-conforming raw materials.

If deviations from the standard are found in stage 2, reactions and sanctions take effect, up to and including withdrawal of the certificate and prohibition of the use of the mark.

Registration procedure

To register products, the company receives a notification file from the certification body or access to digital notification software. Companies registering products for the first time enter company data relevant for certification.

Listing of components for product registration

In the product registration, among other things, a listing of all ingredients contained in the product with contained INCI is required. This is not(!) only the INCI declaration of the product. All raw materials contained must be listed (if mixtures are used, such as pre-preserved plant extracts, also extraction agents and pre-preservation).

The type and materials of packaging must also be indicated.

Any change regarding conformity with the GfaW standards shall be communicated to the certification body without request and without delay.

Exchange with the certification body

For the quality assurance of the GfaW standards, the certification body shall draw up a report on non-conformities once a year. This report is subject to confidentiality and serves

GfaW as a basis for topics in the working group meeting, determination of consulting needs and evaluation of the impact framework.

13. Publication of certified products

Certified products are published on the standard setter's website with the following information:

- Brand
- Product name
- Certification level (NCP or NCP-vegan)
- Certification date and expiration date
- Link to online or stationary shopping possibilities
- Optional: Information on application
- Optional: Information on sustainability