

IBHA Position On Veg / Non Veg Logo

In 2014, the Legal Metrology Department , GOI, mandated that all cosmetics needed to carry logo on their packs to indicate if the ingredients are of vegetarian or non-vegetarian origin.

IBHA believes that the rule should be amended by taking into account the following into consideration:

The whole concept of non-vegetarian is in the context of “eating” and therefore is restricted to foods and beverages. Extrapolating the concept for non-food articles is beyond the scope of the term “non-vegetarian” in its spirit. Such extrapolations will lead to a situation where textiles, toys, buttons, paints etc. will become vegetarian or non-vegetarian. For e.g., a silk garment will would be deemed a non-vegetarian article.

The concept of non-vegetarian is primarily used for the physical part of the animal such as tissue, flesh, blood, bone, skin etc. The term should not be referred to any chemical substance which has come into existence as an entity only after a number of processes and treatments being given to the original material.

Cosmetics are made using number of chemical ingredients and the common ingredients used in cosmetics are given below:

SODIUM LAURETH SULFATE

SODIUM LAUROYL SARCOSINATE

COCAMIDOPROPYL BETAINE

COCAMIDE MEA

MINERAL OIL

GLYCERIN

POLYSORBATE 20

PEG-150 DISTEARATE

OLETH-3, PROPYLENE GLYCOL

CINNAMIDOPROPYLTRIMONIUM CHLORIDE

GLYCOL STEARATE

FRAGRANCE (PARFUM), DISODIUM EDTA

PANTHENOL

GLYCERYL STEARATE

CYCLOMETHICONE

ALLANTOIN

SODIUM PCA

MUCROCRYSTALLINE WAX

LANOLIN

PETROLEUM JELLY

BENZOPHENONE-4

HYDROXYPROPYL GUAR HYDROXYPROPYLTRIMONIUM CHLORIDE

COCOS NUCIFERA (COCONUT) OIL

PEG-120 METHYL GLUCOSE DIOLEATE

PHOSPHOLIPIDS

HYDROLYZED OAT PROTEIN

PHOSPHORUS

MAGNESIUM ASCORBYL PHOSPHATE

CALCIUM PANTOTHENATE

MAGNESIUM SALICYLATE

ZINC GLUCONATE

SACCHAROMYCES/ZINC FERMENT

SACCHAROMYCES/COPPER FERMENT

SACCHAROMYCES/MAGNESIUM FERMENT

SACCHAROMYCES/IRON FERMENT

SACCHAROMYCES/SILICON FERMENT

METHYLPARABEN

PROPYLPARABEN

METHYLCHLOROISOTHIAZOLINONE

METHYLISOTHIAZOLINONE

As has been explained above, definition of veg / non-veg is very vague in the context of cosmetics. Hence, any regulation that mandates labeling of the origin of cosmetics is not only difficult but also unverifiable.