

Section 8: Microbiological Testing of Cosmetics



Microbiological testing is a requirement for cosmetic products that are sold on the South African market, as microbiological safety is necessary to ensure consumer safety. Even though most products contain preservatives, these function to preserve the product during its use and shelf-life. Preservatives are not included in product formulations to control microorganism load due to product contamination. Practicing the principles of good manufacturing practice minimises microbiological contamination of your product.

At an international level, the International Standards Organisation continues to develop test methods relevant to microbiological testing of cosmetics. South African continues to adopt these ISO standards and CTFA makes these available on our website for industry to use prior to placing their product on the market.

A list of these standards can also be accessed by visiting www.ctfa.co.za under the standards listed.

These can also be purchased on www.sabs.co.za.