



IFRA Code of Practice

What is IFRA?

The International Fragrance Association (IFRA), founded in 1973, represents the interests and is the voice of the fragrance industry worldwide. It promotes the safety and benefits of the fragrance industry's products through stakeholder dialogue on a global basis.

Membership in IFRA is open to (1) national and regional fragrance associations from across the world representing members of the local fragrance industry, (2) companies with global operations engaged primarily in the formulation of fragrance compounds, as well as (3) companies that manufacture, formulate, market, or distribute fragrance ingredients, and/or fragrance compounds, (which can be members of IFRA's national and regional associations, or in their absence, directly of IFRA as supporting members), hereafter collectively referred to as "IFRA members".

IFRA is represented on all continents. A current list of IFRA members as well as additional information on IFRA, IFRA membership criteria, IFRA Committees and Bylaws can be found on the IFRA website (www.ifraorg.org).

Regulatory Compliance and IFRA Standards

Fragrance ingredients and fragrance compounds are subject to international regulatory regimes worldwide which may be different depending upon their use and the countries/regions in which they are manufactured, formulated, used and marketed. It is the responsibility of each IFRA member to ensure that the fragrance compounds or ingredients they supply comply with applicable laws and are safe for their intended uses.

When warranted by concerns regarding the safe use of a specific ingredient, IFRA will issue an IFRA Standard. IFRA Standards can either prohibit, restrict or set purity requirements for specific ingredients. Not all fragrance ingredients are subject to IFRA Standards.

The safety of ingredients, whether the subject of an IFRA Standard or not, remains the responsibility of IFRA members. Compliance with IFRA Standards is therefore necessary for compliance with the IFRA Code, but may not be sufficient to ensure regulatory compliance and the safety of fragrance compounds or ingredients.

It is the responsibility of individual companies and their employees, with the support of IFRA and its member associations, to determine how to apply the IFRA Standards, in accordance with applicable law and other requirements of the countries in which they operate.

Adoption, Communication and Modification of IFRA Standards

IFRA Standards are prepared by the IFRA Scientific Committee and IFRA on the basis of the decisions made by the RIFM Expert Panel*. The adoption of IFRA Standards includes a consultation phase of 3 – 6 months involving IFRA members, customer associations and other interested stakeholders. If any additional information is generated that might alter the Standards, a new Expert Panel review and decision is required.



Typically every two years IFRA notifies new and amended Standards in writing to the IFRA membership and interested stakeholders. In case this timeframe is not satisfactory in view of the health or environmental risk at stake, the Standard is communicated as soon as it is adopted. Standards come into effect two months after the date of their notification to IFRA members for new submissions, and 14 months for existing fragrance compounds, unless otherwise stated.

The IFRA Standards and related documents are subject to regular changes as new information relevant to the safety of fragrance ingredients become available. They can be downloaded from the IFRA website or obtained from IFRA upon request. When IFRA members have evidence that warrants the issuance or modification of a Standard, they shall inform IFRA.

Compliance with IFRA Standards

IFRA members must comply with IFRA Standards. An IFRA member is deemed in violation of this Code when it supplies a fragrance ingredient or fragrance compound that is, or contains, an ingredient used in violation of an IFRA Standard.

IFRA Standards and other recommendations are developed in good faith from the most recent scientific opinions and collective experiences of various committees and working groups within and outside IFRA. As such, neither IFRA nor any of its officers or directors shall be liable for their accuracy and completeness, nor for actions taken in applying them under any circumstance.

Other Obligations on IFRA Members

IFRA members shall also follow good operating practices when producing fragrance compounds and fragrance ingredients.

Notes:

* The Research Institute for Fragrance Materials (RIFM) is a non-profit scientific institute founded by the Fragrance Industry in 1966 for the purpose of generating and evaluating safety data on fragrance ingredients. The scientific foundation of RIFM is built around its independent Expert Panel. It is comprised of internationally known academic dermatologists, pathologists, toxicologists and environmental scientists.