

Safety of wet wipes

Manufacturers of personal care, cosmetic and baby wet wipes are represented within EDANA, the international association serving the nonwovens and related industries. EDANA coordinates the activities of the wet wipes industry in areas of mutual interest, in particular, those relating to product safety, environmental stewardship and societal benefits.

Wet wipes are useful for cleansing and caring of the skin of both adults and babies and contribute to hygiene and well-being. Millions of consumers throughout the world enjoy daily the benefits of wet wipes; appreciating the convenience and effectiveness they offer as an alternative to traditional cleansing means.

Product and consumer safety are the top priorities for wet wipes manufacturers.

Wet wipes produced by EDANA members are safe, complying both with high level industry safety standards, and stringent legislation requirements:

General statement on the safety of wet wipes

- The EU Cosmetics Regulation (EC No 1223/2009) is commonly agreed, and directly enforced across all EU Member States
- All ingredients used in the formulation of personal care, cosmetic and baby wet wipes comply with the EU Regulation
- Certain categories of ingredients, e.g. preservatives, can only be used when they have been approved and are listed in the EUs Cosmetic Regulation. You can find further information on ingredients in Annex II-VI of the Regulation
- Wet wipes are manufactured according to strict good manufacturing practices for cosmetic products
- Prior to placing on the market personal care, cosmetic and baby wet wipes must undergo a thorough safety assessment by a duly qualified professional in accordance with Annex I of the EUs Cosmetics Regulation. This assessment is based upon knowledge of the finished product and its ingredients, their general toxicological profile, chemical structure, level of exposure and the specific characteristics of the areas on which the cosmetic product will be applied and the class of individuals for whom the product is intended.
- Annex I requires that a specific safety assessment is carried out on products intended for use on children under the age of three, and for products exclusively used for external intimate hygiene.
- The safety assessment forms part of the Cosmetic Product Safety Report and is open to inspection by the relevant authorities in the EU Member States.
- Each personal care, cosmetic and baby wet wipe is notified on the Cosmetic Product Notification Portal which facilitates traceability and in-market control.
- Additionally, personal care, cosmetic and baby wet wipes also comply with the European General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC).

Do you want to read more?

- European Commission information on cosmetics
http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/cosmetics/index_en.htm

- The EUs Cosmetic Products Regulation <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32009R1223>
- The EUs Scientific Committee for Consumer Products http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/index_en.htm
- The EUs General Product Safety Directive <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1454405378787&uri=CELEX:32001L0095>
- The German Cosmetic, Toiletry, Perfumery and Detergent Association IKW <http://www.ikw.org/ikw-english/>
- The British Cosmetic, Toiletry and Perfumery Association <http://www.thefactsabout.co.uk/>

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