

Regulation of hygiene, personal care and specialty products



hygiene, personal care & specialty products industry

Hygiene, personal care and specialty chemical products are regulated to protect human health, safety and the environment.

Australia has a rigorous and independent regulatory system at the federal, state/territory and local government levels.

Regulation for safety & confidence



Risk assessment

Risk assessment underpins regulation in Australia.

Following risk assessment, controls are put in place to minimise any risks.

Risk assessment
Likelihood of harm

Control measures

e.g. bans; restrictions on use; workplace controls; classification and labelling; control of emissions to air, water and land; waste disposal restrictions

Regulators

Regulators assess risk, implement control measures and enforce compliance with these controls.

Regulation impacts every aspect of a chemical product and its ingredients. Multiple regulators are responsible for these aspects.

Spotlight on: Ingredient and product introduction

Category	Scope	Examples	Regulatory regime*					
			TGA ¹	APVMA ²	FSANZ ³	AICIS ⁴	ACCC ⁵	SUSMP ⁶
Therapeutics	Products that make a therapeutic or health benefit claim	Some mouthwashes, toothpastes, sunscreens, medicated soaps, anti-dandruff shampoos, disinfectants, sanitisers	☑				☑	☑
Agvet	Agricultural & veterinary chemical products	Dairy sanitisers for on-farm use, insect repellents for personal use		☑			☑	☑
Food & beverage	Chemicals in food & beverage products	Ingredients & additives in food for human consumption, such as processing aids, colourings, vitamins and minerals			☑		☑	
Industrial chemicals	All substances that are not defined as therapeutics, agvet or food & beverage	Ingredients in cosmetics & personal care and cleaning & hygiene products; commodity & industrial-use chemicals, inks, adhesives, paints, glues, solvents, candles etc.				☑	☑	☑

Spotlight on: Personal care, cosmetic & household products



INGREDIENTS

- Must comply with AICIS introduction rules⁴
- Some are prohibited/have limits in specific products^{1,6}



PRODUCTS

- Certain products are individually assessed^{1,2}
- Products safety and recalls, if needed^{1,2,5}
- Australian/International standards apply to some categories, e.g. sunscreens, aerosol containers, child-resistant packaging⁷



INFORMATION

- Cosmetic ingredient labelling⁵
- Safety warnings, if needed⁶

Can we trust the system?

Australia, like other advanced nations, has a robust regulatory system designed to deliver safety for consumers and the environment.

Decisions about risk and safety can be safely entrusted to regulatory scientists and expert scientific bodies.

Regulatory scientists & expert scientific bodies

Scientific knowledge
Training
Independence



Informed risk assessments
Appropriate controls
Consumer confidence



Can the system be improved?

Please refer to our 'Complexity and challenges' infographic

*Regulatory/standards system:

¹ TGA: Therapeutic Goods Administration

² APVMA: Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

³ FSANZ: Food Standards Australia New Zealand

⁴ AICIS: Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme

⁵ ACCC: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

⁶ Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons

⁷ Standards Australia and the International Standards Organisation (via various regulatory systems)