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Cosmetics — Guidelines on the stability testing of cosmetic products

*Cosmétiques — Lignes directrices relatives aux essais de stabilité des
produits cosmétiques*



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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 217, *Cosmetics*.

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Introduction

Stability studies are aimed at assessing the ability of a product to maintain the desired physical, chemical and microbiological properties, as well as functionality and sensorial properties when stored and used under appropriate conditions by the consumer. More simply, the objective of a stability study is to determine the shelf life of a product and to evaluate whether a product in the package is stable when subjected to the market conditions in which it is sold and used. The “market conditions” encompass distribution (transportation), warehouse storage and conditions during use.

Thus, the stability study may be seen as a prerequisite for ensuring product quality. Stability tests on cosmetic products are required for

- obtaining a guidance on the formulation of the product, and the appropriate packaging material,
- optimizing the formulation and manufacturing process,
- determining conditions of transportation, storage, display and manner of use,
- estimating and confirming shelf life, and
- ensuring customer safety.

This document identifies readily available references to assess the stability of cosmetic products on the market. Its purpose is to provide a resource for the selection of the appropriate stability tests. Although these guidelines provide a helpful starting point to evaluate new products and technologies, adapting the testing to reflect differences between product types and formulations may still be necessary.