

Technical assessment on cosmetics-formulation with CBD

Cannabidiol (CBD) is a naturally occurring cannabinoid found in cannabis plants. According to the WHO Pre-Review Report on CBD, there are no indications of health problems associated with the use of CBD. CBD does not show the typical effects of other cannabinoids like THC for example. According to studies, CBD also does not show abuse potential.

To clarify the regulatory status of CBD, the Working Group on Cosmetics of the European Commission discussed the status of various active ingredients from *Cannabis Sativa* and *hemp* at its meeting on 18.02.2019. Entry 306 of Annex II to KVO 1223/2009 was included because of reasons given by the terms of Tables I and II of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. Table I of this Agreement lists as drugs "Cannabis, Cannabis Resin and Extracts and Tinctures of Cannabis".

It is further defined in Article 1 of the Convention: "*Cannabis means the flowering or fruiting tops of the cannabis plant (excluding the seeds and leaves when not accompanied by the tops); by whatever name they may be designated.*"

According to this substances with the INCI's

- Cannabis and Cannabis resin; Cannabis sativa, ext. (Substance)
- Cannabis Sativa Flower Extract
- Cannabis Sativa Flower / Leaf / Stem Extract

are considered prohibited under entry 306 in Annex II.

CBD is not listed in the United Nations Convention, so it is not considered a drug. However, it should fall under Annex II, entry 306, if it is obtained as an extract or tincture from the total plant or the individual parts of the cannabis plant that are considered to be drugs under the Single Convention.

With these rules, only synthetic CBD would be allowed; natural CBD, even if it is pure CBD oil or CBD isolate, is banned.

With regard to the above mentioned CBD data, the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (WHO ECDD) recommends that the Single Convention be amended. For CBD it is recommended: "*Preparations containing predominantly cannabidiol and not more than 0.2 percent of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) are not under international control.*"

This proposal was submitted to the CND by the WHO in January 2019, so that it should actually be voted on during the CND meeting from 14.03.-22.03.2019 in Vienna. This vote has been postponed to give the states more time to think about the recommendations.

Accordingly, the European Commission also states that changes in the proposal state have no legal basis, so that natural CBD would be banned for the time being.

[Find more details here](#)