

**[ BFAD BUREAU CIRCULAR NO. 05, S. 2004, April  
06, 2004 ]**

**CONSOLIDATION AND UPDATE OF PERMISSIBLE COSMETICS  
CLAIMS**

In connection with the registration of cosmetics products, the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), issues this circular concerning a consolidation and update of permissible cosmetics claims. Previous issuances by BFAD include B.C. No. 10 s. 2002, B.M. No. 8 s. 2000, B.C. No. 23 s. 1999, B.M. No. 21 s. 1995 governing acceptable cosmetics claims. Such pronouncements are for the guidance of clients and BFAD staff. In spite of these issuances, inquiries regarding classification (whether food, drug or cosmetics) are brought to the attention of this Office. We advise our clients that before registration or conceptualization of labels, claims and advertising, they should make sure that such products should be in consonance with the definition of cosmetics.

1. The BFAD would classify whether or not products are cosmetics based on:

- Republic Act 3720 as amended
- Label Text
- Product intended use
- Claims and ingredients
- Definition of cosmetics

2. Definition and Scope of Cosmetic product

A "*COSMETIC* product" shall mean any substance or preparation intended to be placed in contact with the various external parts of the human body (epidermis, hair system, nails, lips and external genital organs) or with the teeth and mucous membrane of the oral cavity with a view exclusively or mainly to cleaning them, perfuming them, changing their appearance, and/or correcting body odors and/or protecting or keeping them in good condition.

As an illustration, the following are the words used in cosmetic context as differentiated from medicinal context:

The cosmetic context has the typical attributes of:

- . Temporary action
- . Improvement in appearance of the skin, nails, hair and teeth