

# Scoop

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COSMETICS & PERSONAL CARE  
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HARDLINES

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## Staying Safe & Compliant: Essential Oils Classification Decoded



Navigating the regulatory landscape for essential oils is critical for maintaining market integrity and consumer safety. The classification of an essential oil is determined primarily by its intended use and the specific claims made on its product label. By aligning your product strategy with established global frameworks, you ensure both operational compliance and consumer trust.

### Product Classification Framework

The classification of essential oils dictates the regulatory requirements for ingredients, labelling, and safety standards. Below is the classification matrix based on typical product applications and marketing claims:

| Direction of use  | Product classification    |
|---|---------------------------|
| Topical application (e.g., skin lubrication) without medicinal claims               | Cosmetics                 |
| Ambient scenting (e.g., reed diffusers, home fragrance)                             | General Consumer Products |
| Topical application with aromatherapy claims (e.g., pain relief, muscle relaxation) | Pharmaceutical            |
| Home fragrance with anti-pest functionality   | Pesticides                |

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## Global Regulatory Alignment

To ensure seamless market access, products must adhere to region-specific mandates tailored to their classification.

| Product Classification           | Regulation  |  |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--|
| <b>Cosmetics</b>                 | EU          | Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009   |
|                                  | US          | The Modernization of Cosmetic Regulations Act 2022 (MoCRA)                                     |
|                                  | Canada      | Food and Drugs Act and the Cosmetic Regulations  |
|                                  | ASEAN       | ASEAN Cosmetics Directive  |
|                                  | Australia   | Consumer Goods (Cosmetics) Information Standard 2020   |
|                                  | New Zealand | Cosmetic Products Group Standard   |
| <b>General Consumer Products</b> | EU          | REACH Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006, CLP Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 etc.                    |
|                                  | US          | Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) etc.              |
|                                  | Canada      | Consumer Chemicals and Containers Regulations (CCCR, 2001)                                     |
|                                  | ASEAN       | Refer to the corresponding Chemical Regulations  |
|                                  | Australia   | Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) inventory list & Poisons Standards |
|                                  | New Zealand | New Zealand Inventory of Chemicals, NZIoC  |
| <b>Pharmaceutical</b>            | EU          | Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 and Directive 2001/83/EC   |
|                                  | US          | Food and Drug Administration Act   |
| <b>Pesticides</b>                | EU          | Biocide Regulation (EU) No 528/2012  |
|                                  | US          | Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)                                    |

## Quality Assurance & Safety Protocols

Commitment to excellence extends beyond classification. To achieve full compliance, manufacturers must prioritize the following:

- **Integrated Compliance:** Ingredients, product labelling, and overall quality systems must be audited against the governing regulations relevant to the product category.
- **Traceable Handling:** Rigorous storage and handling protocols must be established, with all procedures directly traceable to the product's Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

By integrating these technical standards into your product lifecycle, you ensure that your essential oils meet the highest benchmarks for safety, efficacy, and regulatory excellence.

*SGS is recognized as the benchmark for quality and integrity. Wherever you operate in the world, we support you at every step of your product's development – from raw materials to end product – helping you to deliver safe, effective and compliant products to global markets.*

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