



29 August 2025

(25-5409)

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

Addendum

The following communication, dated 29 August 2025, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States of America.

Title: Chapter 173-339 WAC Cosmetic Products Restrictions (Formaldehyde in Cosmetics)

Reason for Addendum:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comment period changed - date:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Notified measure adopted - date: 28 August 2025
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Notified measure published - date: 28 August 2025
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Notified measure enters into force - date: 28 September 2025
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Text of final measure available from ¹ : https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2025/TBT/USA/final_measure/25_05758_00_e.pdf
<input type="checkbox"/>	Notified measure withdrawn or revoked - date: Relevant symbol if measure re-notified:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Content or scope of notified measure changed and text available from ¹ : New deadline for comments (if applicable):
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interpretive guidance issued and text available from ¹ :
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Description: On 28 August 2025, the Washington Department of Ecology adopted a new rule, [Chapter 173-339 WAC: Cosmetic Products Restrictions](#). This new chapter restricts the manufacture, sale, and distribution of cosmetic products in Washington State that contain intentionally added formaldehyde releasers.

Formaldehyde can cause cancer, respiratory problems such as asthma, allergic skin responses, and irritation of and damage to eyes and skin. Restricting these chemicals will reduce exposure to formaldehyde for people who use cosmetic products.

The adopted rule:

- Includes a list of 25 formaldehyde releasers that are restricted by rule when intentionally added to cosmetic products. This list will help manufacturers investigate their supply chain and formulate products without chemicals that release formaldehyde.

¹ This information can be provided by including a website address, a pdf attachment, or other information on where the text of the final/modified measure and/or interpretive guidance can be obtained.

- Defines "intentionally added" to clarify restrictions on toxic chemicals in the [Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act \(RCW 70A.560.020\)](#). Applying the definition of "intentionally added" to the statutory restriction on formaldehyde restricts all chemicals that release formaldehyde when the formaldehyde serves a function.

The restrictions in the rule and in the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act:

- Affect cosmetics manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and cosmetology businesses operating in Washington State.
- Apply to cosmetic products used in services, sold online, and sold in physical stores.

Key dates

28 August 2025: Rule adopted

28 September 2025: Rule takes effect

1 January 2027: Restrictions in rule take effect

31 December 2027: Deadline for in-state retailers to sell existing stock

Rule adoption documents:

- [Adoption Notice: CR-103 form](#)
- [Adopted rule](#)
- [Final Regulatory Analyses](#)
- [Concise Explanatory Statement](#)
- [Cosmetics Implementation Plan](#)
- [Environmental Justice Assessment](#)
- [SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance and Environmental Checklist](#)

For more information, go to:

- [Overview: Formaldehyde in Cosmetics Rulemaking](#) to learn about the rulemaking.
- [Formaldehyde Releasers Technical Support](#) to learn how we developed the list of formaldehyde releasers.

Chapter 173-339 WAC – Cosmetic Products Restrictions (Formaldehyde in Cosmetics) Rulemaking:
<https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/laws-rules-rulemaking/rulemaking/wac-173-339>
