



NATRUE Organization - Statement

Pesticide residues in Natural and Organic Cosmetics?

Across the world, more and more consumers are concerned about the quality and safety of raw materials used in personal care products. In natural and organic cosmetics, the quality of the agricultural raw materials is of core value which defines the safety of the final products. The members of NATRUE ensure through various measures that the ingredients they use meet the strict quality and safety standards and every effort is made to minimize the contamination by unwanted substances such as pesticides.

1. Power of nature

NATRUE and our member companies strongly believe in the power of nature. It is scientifically proven that essences of nature in our ingredients stimulate and encourage our skin to regain vitality and inner balance. An authentic beauty should be in line with well-being and care for everything around us - plants, insects and environment. This is why member companies of NATRUE use, wherever possible, natural ingredients of organic origin, without synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.

2. What are pesticides and why should they be avoided?

Pesticides encompass a wide variety of chemical or biological substances which are widely used in conventional agriculture to prevent, destroy or repel pests/diseases. As pesticides are formulated to eliminate or combat unwanted organisms, they are toxic by nature to some degree and therefore, they may also exert adverse effects on non-target organisms in wildlife, human health and the environment. For this reason, for all approved pesticides in Europe exact maximum residue levels (MRLs) in food are set by law^{*1}.

Organic agriculture is an alternative to conventional farming practice that respects the environment and natural life. In contrast to the conventional plant cultivation, the use of synthetic chemical pesticides is strictly prohibited and the usage of a small group of inorganic and naturally derived active agents are precisely defined^{*2}. NATRUE encourages its member companies in their effort to use as many plants from certified organic cultivation as possible.

3. Pesticide residues in Natural and Organic cosmetics?

The care of the entire production process is essential for the quality of the final product. Therefore the member companies of NATRUE pay particular attention to the careful selection of their suppliers to secure that the whole on-site practice corresponds to the established quality requirements.

However due to the extensive, sometimes improper use of pesticides over decades and the improved analytical sensitivity down to the picogram (10^{-12} g) range, a background contamination could be found not only in areas with conventional farming but also in remotest areas where pesticides have never been used (e.g. Antarctica)^{*3,4}. This finally means that even in organically produced crops, where no synthetic pesticides are

NATRUE Organization - Statement

intentionally used, it is conceivable that small traces of pesticides could be found. These levels are, of course, very low (far below legal threshold) and pose no risk to the consumers.

Furthermore many comparative studies have found that the organically grown crops have consistently and considerably lower levels of pesticide residues than conventionally grown crops. Accordingly, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) as well as the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Agricultural Marketing Service have confirmed in their latest reports, related to pesticide residues, the better quality of organic against conventional food*^{5,6}.

4. We guarantee the highest quality of raw materials

NATRUE and our member companies make every effort to eliminate undesirable residues in our ingredients and products. The NATRUE member companies work with an elaborate system of supplier qualification, in which all quality-relevant departments of the firms are involved. They ensure through detailed questionnaires, that the delivered raw materials comply with all statutory requirements and recommendations and fulfill the high-quality specifications of each natural cosmetic manufacturer. Therefore a quality of the natural raw material is achieved which is comparable to those for food production.

In addition to the official inspection by the local authorities and the regular self-monitoring of the suppliers, the members companies of NATRUE perform their own analytical measurements either in-house or by independent laboratories, to verify the absence of unwanted substances. Of course, only products meeting highest quality standard are approved for further processing. We make every effort to bring the purest ingredients in our products so that maximum benefit and power of natural ingredients can be guaranteed to our consumers.

Conclusion

The NATRUE member companies ensure through various measures that all the ingredients they use meet the strict quality and safety requirements. By basing on natural resources, wherever possible from organic cultivation, a sustainable production cycle and regular monitoring of the proper quality of all raw materials, every effort is made to prevent a contamination by unwanted substances such as pesticides from the outset. By doing so, we guarantee that our products are packed with all the power nature has to offer, to strengthen and harmonize the skin through all ages.

References

*¹ Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005 of the European parliament and of the council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant

*² Council Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91.

*³ e.g. Hoferkamp L. et al., Current use pesticides in Arctic media; 2000–2007. Science of the Total Environment 2010 408(15), 2985-2994.



NATRUE Organization - Statement

*4 e.g. Weber J. et al., Endosulfan - a global pesticide: A review of its fate in the environment and occurrence in the Arctic. *Science of the Total Environment* 2010, 408(15), 2966-2984.

*5 EFSA Journal 2010; 8(7):1646 [442 pp.]. doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2010.1646. 2008 Annual Report on Pesticide Residues according to Article 32 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005.

*6 Pesticide Data Program (PDP) summary: Calendar Year 2009, Released in May 2011. <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5091055>

About NATRUE:

NATRUE is an international non-profit organisation located in Brussels. It has promoted and protected authentic natural and organic cosmetics since 2007. The NATRUE Label sets a high standard which guarantees quality and integrity so consumers worldwide may identify and enjoy natural and organic cosmetics truly worthy of that name. Currently over 6,200 products and more than 270 raw materials are NATRUE certified. Products are listed on the publicly accessible database in our website (www.natrue.org).