CDSCO

CDSCO calls for closer watch on unregistered imported cosmetics

CDSCO's circular of July 22, 2026 asks for closer surveillance of imported cosmetics sold in India without a registration certificate, and a strict watch at ports.

THE CENTRAL DRUGS Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), through its Cosmetics Division under the Directorate General of Health Services, issued a circular under File No. COS-11018/3/2026-eoffice. It is stamped July 22, 2026 and signed by Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, Drugs Controller General (India). Its subject is vigilance on imported cosmetics sold in the domestic market without a valid import registration certificate. CDSCO listed it among its circulars on July 23, 2026. Copies went to all Port Offices, Zonal Offices and Sub-Zonal Offices of CDSCO, all State Licensing Authorities and the CDSCO website.

KEY FACTS

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The circular recalls that the Cosmetics Rules, 2020 were notified on December 15, 2020 under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. It quotes rule 12(1): no cosmetic shall be imported into India unless the product has been registered in accordance with these rules by the Central Licensing Authority, or by any officer to whom such powers may be delegated under rule 5(1).

It says it has come to notice that imported cosmetics are being sold in the domestic market without a valid registration certificate. State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) and CDSCO's Zonal heads are asked to direct the inspectors under their control to carry out "enhanced surveillance" on such cosmetics. All port officers are directed to keep "a strict vigil" to curb the entry of cosmetics into India without a registration certificate.

The circular gives no figure, product, brand, importer or country of origin, and does not say how the sales came to notice. It sets no reporting step, deadline or end date, and does not say what action is to follow when such cosmetics are found. It has no addressee line; the officers it speaks to appear in its text and its copy list.

Issued by	Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, Cosmetics Division (Directorate General of Health Services)
Document	Circular, File No. COS-11018/3/2026-eoffice
Dated	July 22, 2026 (date stamp)
Addressed to	State Licensing Authorities and Zonal heads of CDSCO; all port officers
Applies to	Imported cosmetics sold in India without a valid import registration certificate
Rule cited	Rule 12(1) of the Cosmetics Rules, 2020: no cosmetic shall be imported into India unless the product has been registered by the Central Licensing Authority or an officer delegated under rule 5(1)

Action asked	Inspectors under SLAs and CDSCO's Zonal heads: "enhanced surveillance" on such cosmetics; port officers: "a strict vigil" to curb entry of cosmetics without a registration certificate
Reporting	None set
Takes effect	No date stated
Listed	CDSCO circulars, July 23, 2026
Copies to	All Port Offices/Zonal Offices/Sub-Zonal Offices of CDSCO; all State Licensing Authorities; CDSCO website
Related	CDSCO public notice of September 8, 2026 (COS-11012/07/2026-eoffice), listed September 14, 2026: Goree Beauty Cream and Chandni Whitening Cream, both made in Pakistan, verified by CDSCO through test and analysis as "unauthorised" and not issued a registration certificate for import, and stated to contain excessive heavy metals beyond the specified limits
Signed by	Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, Drugs Controller General (India)

The circular (PDF, 254 KB)

Source: CDSCO's own copy.

Checked against the official copy on October 28, 2026.

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