CDSCO

CDSCO says injectable preparations are not cosmetics

CDSCO's public notice of May 18, 2026 says injectable preparations are not cosmetics, and no cosmetic may be used as an injection or in treatment.

THE CENTRAL DRUGS Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), Directorate General of Health Services, issued a Public Notice under File No. COS-12/1/2026-eoffice. It is stamped May 18, 2026 and signed by Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, Drugs Controller General (India). It has no subject line; CDSCO listed it among its public notices on May 19, 2026 as "Use of Cosmetics". It is addressed to all stakeholders (consumers, professionals, importers and manufacturers) through the CDSCO website, and to "All SLA's/UT's", the State Licensing Authorities and Union Territories.

KEY FACTS

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Public Notice, File No. COS-12/1/2026-eoffice

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The notice quotes the definition in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940: "Cosmetic means any article intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled or sprayed on, or introduced into, or otherwise applied to, the human body or any part thereof for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance, and includes any article intended for use as a component of cosmetic". It says the manufacture and import of cosmetics for sale and distribution are regulated under the Cosmetics Rules, 2020, and that the Bureau of Indian Standards publishes the list of "generally not recognised as safe (GNRAS) and restricted Ingredients".

Products supplied in the form of an injectable preparation do not fall under the definition of cosmetics, the notice says. No cosmetic is permitted to be used as an injection by consumers, professionals or aesthetic clinics, and no cosmetic is permitted to be used in treatment by professionals or individuals. Cosmetics are only intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled or sprayed on the human body, and only for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness or altering its appearance.

On labels, the notice says no cosmetic may purport or claim to purport or convey any idea which is false or misleading to the intending user. No person shall alter, obliterate or deface any inscription or mark made or recorded by the manufacturer on the container, label or wrapper of any cosmetic. It states that the use of prohibited ingredients in a cosmetic product, misleading claims on the label, the use of cosmetics for treatment and the application of a cosmetic through injection breach "the said Act & Rules", which it earlier gives as the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Cosmetics Rules, 2020. It encourages the public to report any such observation to the regulator at cosmetics@cdsco.nic.in and/or the State Licensing Authority.

The notice names no product, ingredient, brand, clinic or company, cites no rule number, and sets no penalty, deadline or start date. It is sent to the State Licensing Authorities but sets them no task, and it gives importers and sellers no step to take; the only action it asks for is public reporting. It does not say which rules apply to an injectable product that falls outside the definition. Its line that cosmetics are "only intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled or sprayed" leaves out the words "introduced into, or otherwise applied to" from the definition it quotes.

Issued by	Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, Directorate General of Health Services
Document	Public Notice, File No. COS-12/1/2026-eoffice
Dated	May 18, 2026 (date stamp)
Listed	CDSCO public notices, May 19, 2026, as "Use of Cosmetics"
Addressed to	All stakeholders (consumers, professionals, importers and manufacturers) through the CDSCO website; all State Licensing Authorities and Union Territories
Applies to	Cosmetics, and products supplied in the form of an injectable preparation
Injectable preparations	"do not fall under the definition of cosmetics"
Not permitted	Any cosmetic used as an injection by consumers, professionals or aesthetic clinics; any cosmetic used in treatment by professionals or individuals
Stated as violations	Use of prohibited ingredients, misleading claims on the label, use of cosmetics for treatment, and application of a cosmetic through injection, under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Cosmetics Rules, 2020
Ingredient lists	"generally not recognised as safe (GNRAS) and restricted Ingredients", published by the Bureau of Indian Standards
Report to	cosmetics@cdsco.nic.in and/or the State Licensing Authority
Takes effect	No date stated
Signed by	Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, Drugs Controller General (India)

The public notice (PDF, 335 KB)

Source: CDSCO's own copy.

Checked against the official copy on October 28, 2026.

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Read online: indusdesk.com/cdsco/insights/cdsco-says-injectable-preparations-are-not-cosmetics/