



UPDATE OF THE COSMOS STANDARD SCHEME DOCUMENTS

Relevant changes in the COSMOS-standard V4.2

COSMOS-standard AISBL continually reviews the criteria that companies must meet to ensure their products are genuine organic or natural cosmetics produced to the highest feasible sustainability practices.

This information paper lists the sections of the COSMOS-standard Scheme Documents where relevant changes have been done, by comparing:

- **V4.1 to V4.2** for the COSMOS-standard
- **V4.1 to V4.2** for the Technical Guide
- **V4.1 to V4.2** for the Control Manual

The Labelling Guide V4.0 remains unchanged.

As the list is not exhaustive, the COSMOS-standard Scheme Documents Version 4.2 (and V4.0 for the Labelling Guide) remain the sole reference for all changes.

Today, the COSMOS-standard applicable set of Scheme Documents consists of:

- V4.2 of the **COSMOS-standard** (published 1 September 2025)
- V4.2 of the COSMOS-standard **Technical Guide** (published 1 September 2025)
- V4.0 of the COSMOS-standard **Labelling Guide** (published 1 Jan 2023)
- V4.2 of the COSMOS-standard **Control Manual** (published 1 September 2025)

This document is for the use of authorised Certification Bodies and their clients and for the COSMOS-standard nominated Accreditation Bodies.

1 September 2025

Summary

List of sections edited by document type:

Scheme document	Section number
STANDARD	Section 3 Section 8.3 Section 8.3.1 Section 10.2 Section 10.3 Section 12.1 Section 12.2 Section 12.3 Appendix III
TECHNICAL GUIDE	SECTION 1 – Packaging & Fabrics (overview) Section 4 Section 6.1.3 Section 6.2.3 Section 6.2.4 Section 8.3 Section 8.3.1 (table) Section 8.4 Section 10.4 Appendix II Appendix VI and VII
CONTROL MANUAL	Section 6.3.b Section 7.1.f

SECTION §	SCHEME DOCUMENT	RELEVANT CHANGES IN V4.2 COMPARED TO: ► COSMOS-standard V4.1 ► COSMOS-standard Technical Guide V4.1 ► COSMOS-standard Control Manual V4.1
SECTION 1 (OVERVIEW)	Technical Guide (page 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed “primary packaging must be validated and compliant” in the COSMOS CERTIFIED column, as the requirement is removed from the Standard in v4.2
3	Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reworded Scope 2 content for clarification purposes (page 5)
4	Technical Guide (page 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added a point of clarification regarding effect pigments in Decorative cosmetic
6.1.3	Technical Guide (page 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added royal jelly as one prohibited ingredient of animal origin
6.2.3 6.2.4	Technical Guide (page 16+24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections on “Alcohol used as single ingredient” & “Alcohol used in an extract” moved from §6.2.3 page 16 (PPAI) to §6.2.4 page 24 (CPAI) for consistency with the Standard
8.3	Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added precision that packaging requirement must be met also for fabric components (page 21) Removed primary & secondary packaging requirement for certified raw materials & base formulas (page 21)
	Technical Guide (page 31)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed “packaging for bulk products (B to B), packaging for COSMOS APPROVED raw materials” as the requirement is removed from the Standard in v4.2
8.3.1	Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed packaging requirement for certified raw materials & base formulas (page 21) <p><i>Principle 3: RENEWABLE</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added a definition of renewable materials (page 21) Added silkscreen printing (ie. no label but ink printed directly on the pack) (page 21) <p><i>Principle 4: RECYCLE</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added (containers and lids) regarding monomaterials for primary packaging (page 22) Added a new indicator “use monomaterial pump” (page 22) Added “...primary and secondary packaging materials” (page 22) Added a precision “... to help recycling process” (page 22)

SECTION §	SCHEME DOCUMENT	RELEVANT CHANGES IN V4.2 COMPARED TO: ► COSMOS-standard V4.1 ► COSMOS-standard Technical Guide V4.1 ► COSMOS-standard Control Manual V4.1
8.3.1	Technical Guide (page 32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added changes of the Standard (Principles 3-RENEWABLE & 4-RECYCLE) into the table Added an example for the "sale in bulk product" indicator (Principle 1-REDUCE) Added a new example for the "Use natural based inks and adhesives on labels or silkscreen printing" indicator (Principle 3-RENEWABLE)
8.4	Technical Guide (page 33)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added the case of free samples
10.2	Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changed the rules options for indicating the % of organic origin ingredients by weight of the total product without water and minerals or without water and salt from a "can" to a "must", whereby offering additional alternatives (page 26)
10.3	Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added possible indications to the labelling criteria regarding the percentage of organic origin ingredients by weight of the total product without water and minerals or without water and salt (page 28)
10.4	Technical Guide (page 36)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added examples of operator responsibilities for the use of COSMOS CERTIFIED label
12.3	Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transitional measures updated to be consistent with publication date of the COSMOS-standard v4.2 Scheme Documents & reminder on rules for v3.1 certified finished products added, reflecting information already available in the COSMOS website Documents page (page 32)
APPENDIX II	Technical Guide (page 41)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added a specification regarding amidation
APPENDIX III	Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added examples of ionising radiations: "...(for example alpha, beta, gamma and X-ray)" (page 38)
APPENDIX VII	Technical Guide (page 43)	<p><i>Shortage of a certified (organic or CSPO) raw material</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added the specification that the temporary change requirement applies to finished products and raw materials

SECTION §	SCHEME DOCUMENT	RELEVANT CHANGES IN V4.2 COMPARED TO: ►COSMOS-standard V4.1 ►COSMOS-standard Technical Guide V4.1 ►COSMOS-standard Control Manual V4.1
6.3.b	Control Manual (page 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated cycle for monitoring assessments in order to align with ISO/IEC 17011 section 7.9.3
7.1.f	Control Manual (page 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Staff English level requirements extended to members of any of the COSMOS committees'