

The Andean  
Community of Nations  
has banned the sale of  
cosmetics containing  
long-chain parabens

**Pag. 4**



[ebook >](#)

legal bulletin

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# Table of Contents

The Andean Community of Nations has banned the sale of cosmetics containing long-chain parabens

4

.....

The Andean Community establishes the list of cosmetic formulations that will govern in member countries

6

# The Andean Community of Nations has banned the sale of cosmetics containing long-chain parabens

Within the framework of Decision 516/2002, the General Secretary of the Andean Community issued [Resolution 1905/2017](#), which bans the use of long-chain parabens as an ingredient in cosmetic products marketed in the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) territory.

It should be highlighted that the issuance of the Resolution 1905/2017 intends to comply with international standards on the matter. Thus, the [Regulation 358/2014](#) from European Union was taken as reference, which banned the use of long-chain parabens considering that its safety and efficacy is not proven, constituting a high risk for people.

Under the new Resolution, in force for CAN, long-chain parabens are banned, such as isobutylparaben, phenylparaben, benzylparaben and pentylparaben, in the manufacture of cosmetic products to be sold in the member countries. In turn, the Resolution prohibits the national authorities (INVIMA in the case of Colombia) from granting a Mandatory Health Notice (NSO for its name in Spanish), its renewal or acknowledgement, for products containing the mentioned ingredients.

However, Resolution 1905/2017 granted a one year transition period, counted as of the entry into force of the Resolution, for NSO holders or those responsible

for the sale of products containing long-chain parabens to adjust their formulas, exhaust their stock and obtain the relevant NSO before the national authority of each member country. Once the transition period expires, the products cannot be sold and will need to be removed from the market, without the possibility of any extension.

Since the standard entered into force on February 14, 2017, the transition period will end on February 14, 2018 and applies to the member countries of the Andean Community of Nations, namely Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Lastly, the community standard established that in case of breach,



the national authority of each member country will take the applicable health safety measures and the sanctions provided by CAN regulations and national standards.

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# The Andean Community establishes the list of cosmetic formulations that will govern in member countries

Within the framework of Decision 516 on health control and surveillance of cosmetic products, the General Secretary of the Andean Community issued the [Resolution 1906/2017](#), modifying Resolution 797/2004, with the intention of clarifying what are the pharmaceutical formulations that companies must use, in a uniform way, for purposes of regulatory obligations and proceedings, in all Andean Community member countries.

Before, there was not uniformity in the terms used to designate pharmaceutical formulations, Due to this, designation was used to vary on a country-by-country basis, making sub-regional trade difficult.

Resolution 1906 included the different existing cosmetic formulations and those derived from new technological developments. According to the Resolution, “cosmetic formulation” means the “final presentation of the cosmetic product with certain physicochemical characteristics for its adequate presentation and use.”

On the other hand, the Resolution established that, when the authorization to manufacture cosmetic products is granted, that document must include the cosmetic formulations provided in Resolution 1906/2017.

Additionally, the standard provided that the cosmetic products that

are part of annex 1 of [Decision 516/2002](#), along with their expansions or modifications, may be classified according to the cosmetic formulations provided in Resolution 1906/2017.

Finally, we should highlight that this Resolution applies to the member countries of the Andean Community of Nations, namely Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

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