COSMETIC TERMS, MEANINGS AND USES

AHA's - Alpha-Hydroxy Acids are a group of plant and animal-derived acids used in a variety of skincare products. These include daily anti-aging products, such as serums, toners, and creams, and can also be used as pH adjusters. PH adjusters are ingredients added to products to ensure they are mild and non-irritating - not too acidic (low pH) or too basic (high pH).

Astringent - Is a substance that shrinks or constricts body tissues.

Collagen - Is an ingredient that naturally occurs in our skin and it works wonders to hydrate and plump the skin. The more of it we have, the firmer and juicier our skin looks.

Emollient - Meaning soother or softener, an emollient softens dry, rough, flaky skin, making it look and feel better.

Humectant - Meaning it attracts moisture to your skin.

pH - Acidity of an ingredient or the acidity of the final product. PH adjusters are ingredients added to products to ensure they are mild and non-irritating – not too acidic (low pH) or too basic (high pH).

Polysaccharide - Polysaccharides are responsible for the skin's natural ability to hydrate and retain water.

Surfactant - Surfactants may act as emulsifiers.

AICIS - The Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS) is a list of all industrial chemicals in use in Australia between 1 January 1977 and 28 February 1990. In addition, it includes new assessed chemicals and corrections as required. We help protect Australians and our environment by assessing the risks of importing or manufacturing (introducing) industrial chemicals and promoting their safe use. We focus on chemicals, polymers, ingredients of products used in printing, plastics, mining, construction, paints, adhesives, consumer goods, cosmetics and more.

CAS numbers -

What is a CAS number?

CAS Registry Numbers® or CASRNs®, commonly referred to as CAS numbers, are unique numerical identifiers assigned to chemicals by the Chemicals Abstract Service (CAS: A Division of The American Chemical Society). CAS numbers provide a simple, consistent and reliable way of identifying chemical substances so that they are recognisable regardless of your region.

Each CAS number is assigned to only one substance, ensuring that the CAS number is unique to that chemical. The number, which is assigned as soon as the chemical enters the CAS Registry® database, can be up to ten digits in length and is separated into three parts with hyphens. The first part contains two to seven digits, the second part contains two digits, and the third part consists of just one digit, known as the check

digit. In their current format, there are a maximum of one billion unique CAS numbers available. They have no real chemical significance and are assigned in sequential order, so that newer substances have larger numbers than the chemicals that previously entered the registry.

The CAS Registry®

The chemicals and their assigned CAS numbers are part of a centralised collection known as the CAS Registry®, where thousands of new chemicals are added on a daily basis, resulting in the most authoritative database of disclosed chemical substances. The CAS Registry® numbers have been assigned to every unique chemical substance described in scientific literature from 1957 to present day, as well as additional substances dating as far back as the early 1900s.

As of 2020, the CAS Registry® contained over 159 million unique chemical substances, as well as about 70 million protein and nucleic acid sequences. In April 2021, CAS announced it had registered its 250 millionth unique chemical substance.

Why we need CAS numbers?

As CAS numbers are unique and specific to individual substances, they provide an unmistakable way of identifying chemicals no matter how they might be described. Chemical compounds can often be described in many different ways, such as by molecular formula, shipping name, systematic name and proprietary or trade names to list a few. For example, Hydrogen Peroxide and Dioxidane are in fact, the same chemical substance, but this might not be immediately obvious until we see that they share the same CAS number. From an inventory and safety viewpoint, the CAS number is an invaluable tool that quickly shows users reliable and accurate information about the chemicals they have in their possession.

The implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in 2012, meant that CAS numbers needed to be included in all Safety Data Sheets (SDS) from 1 December 2015. These CAS numbers provide an extra form of identification for the chemical, reducing the confusion caused by the many different names for one chemical and also by these chemical names being misspelled by non-chemist users and laypersons who are dealing with the chemical.

CAS numbers are recognised as a universal standard and have been embraced by scientists, and industry and regulatory agencies around the world. Nearly every chemical database in the world allows users to search for chemicals by CAS number.

What is the AICIS?

The Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) helps protect Australians and the environment by assessing the risks of industrial chemicals and providing information to promote their safe use. AICIS is an agency within Health.

What does NICNAS stand for?

National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme

The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) is a statutory scheme regulating importing and manufacturing of Industrial chemicals in Australia.

What does NICNAS do?

To promote the safe use of industrial chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment, we:

- conduct scientific risk assessments on the introduction and intended use of industrial chemicals in Australia, and we publish our findings,
- maintain the Australian Inventory of Industrial Chemicals (the Inventory)
- issue certificates and authorisations for the introduction of industrial chemicals in Australia,
- make risk management recommendations to protect human health and the environment for consideration by other state, territory or Australian Government agencies under their legislation, regulations and standards,
- set and maintain the Industrial Chemicals Categorisation Guidelines,
- maintain the Register of Industrial Chemical Introducers,
- monitor compliance and investigate any breaches of our laws,
- collect statistics on the use of industrial chemicals in Australia,
- assist Australia to meet its obligations under international agreements regarding industrial chemicals,
- collaborate with other regulatory authorities involved in chemical regulation in Australia, and
- work with other countries to harmonise and adopt (where applicable in the Australian context) international standards and risk assessment methods.

The Poisons Standard (the SUSMP)

The Poisons Standard is a record of decisions on the classification of medicines and chemicals into Schedules. It also includes model provisions for containers and labels, and recommendations about other controls on medicines and chemicals.

The Poisons Standard- external site is a Legislative Instrument for the purposes of the Legislation Act 2003. The Poisons Standard consists of decisions regarding the classification of medicines and poisons into Schedules for inclusion in the relevant legislation of the States and Territories. The Poisons Standard also includes model provisions about containers and labels, a list of products recommended to be exempt from these provisions, and recommendations about other controls on drugs and poisons.

The Poisons Standard has been presented with a view to promoting uniform scheduling of substances and uniform labelling and packaging requirements throughout Australia.

The Poisons Standard is the legal title of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP).