



Gloss and Governance: Understanding Cosmetic Products Approval in MENA

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ABSTRACT

The regulatory approval process for cosmetic products in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region presents unique challenges and opportunities for stakeholders in the cosmetics industry. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the region's regulatory landscape, focusing on key markets such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt. It explores the harmonization efforts under the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), country-specific registration procedures, labelling requirements, and compliance with safety and quality standards. By highlighting critical differences and commonalities in regulatory frameworks, this article aims to assist manufacturers, exporters, and policymakers in navigating the complexities of product approval in MENA. Ultimately, it underscores the importance of adapting to evolving regulations to ensure market access and consumer safety.

Keywords: Cosmetic Products, MENA Region, Product Registration, Consumer Safety, GCC.

INTRODUCTION

MENA stands for the Middle East and North Africa, a term commonly used by academic, economic, and international organizations. Often referred to as the Arab World or Greater Middle East, it generally includes 19 core countries, with an additional 16 sometimes considered part of the region. MENA, also known as West Asia and North Africa (WANA) or South West Asia and North Africa (SWANA), geographically unites the Middle East and North Africa. While similar to the Greater Middle East, MENA is seen as a more specific and apolitical classification, covering much of the Muslim world. Its boundaries are not strictly defined, but it typically includes Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the UAE, and Yemen¹.

Background:

The term "Middle East" originated in the 19th century to describe the transcontinental region between Southwest Asia and North Africa, primarily from a Eurocentric perspective used by the Western world. However, defining its exact composition remains a subject of debate. To provide clarity, organizations such as the World Bank and the United Nations adopted the term "Middle East and North Africa (MENA)", which extends from Iran in the east to Morocco in the west.

The George W. Bush's administration [Launched in 2004, the GMEI aimed to promote democracy, education, economic reform, and human rights across a broad region including the Middle East, North Africa, and parts of Central and South Asia] later introduced "Greater Middle East" to include all Muslim-majority nations, such as Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey. Unlike this broader classification, MENA encompasses Iran but excludes Pakistan, Turkey, and Afghanistan, with its boundaries being defined more by geography than social or religious factors².

Countries: The MENA region typically includes 19 core countries, such as Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, and Yemen. Depending on context, 16 additional countries—including Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Chad, Comoros, Cyprus, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Somalia, Sudan, and Turkey—are sometimes included. The region's population exceeds 381 million, making up about 6% of the global population. Egypt (94 million), Iran (80 million), and Algeria (40 million) are among the most populous nations in MENA³.

Languages in MENA: The dominant language in the MENA region is Arabic. It is spoken in all the countries except in Israel where Hebrew is a dominant language. Islam is the dominant religion except in Israel where Judaism is the de facto religion⁴.

REGULATIONS IN MENA REGION

The MENA region (Middle East and North Africa) does not have a unified regulatory framework, as each country has its own set of regulations. However, there are some commonalities and regional efforts to harmonize standards:⁴

1. Country-Specific Regulations:

- Each country in the MENA region has its own regulatory authority overseeing cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and other products. For example:
 - **UAE:** Follows Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) standards.
 - **Saudi Arabia:** Regulated by the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA).
 - **Egypt:** Overseen by the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA)⁴.



2. GCC Standards:

- Many Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait, follow the Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO) guidelines for cosmetics and pharmaceuticals⁴.

3. International Standards:

- Some MENA countries align with international standards, such as those set by the European Union (EU) or World Health Organization (WHO), especially for safety and quality⁴.

REGULATORY APPROVAL PROCESS OF COSMETIC PRODUCTS IN MENA COUNTRIES

1) ALGERIA⁵

Introduction:

The pharmaceutical landscape in Algeria is regulated to ensure public health through strict oversight of the entire lifecycle of products, from development to post-marketing surveillance. The National Agency for Pharmaceutical Products (ANPP) plays a key role in enforcing standards, clinical trial assessments, and monitoring marketed products. Cosmetics manufacturers must comply with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for safety and quality.

The Ministry of Health, Population, and Hospital Reform (MoHPHR), via the ANPP, oversees cosmetics regulation, ensuring compliance with stringent safety, efficacy, and quality standards. This framework aligns with international guidelines, such as those from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH), facilitating product entry into the market while safeguarding public health.

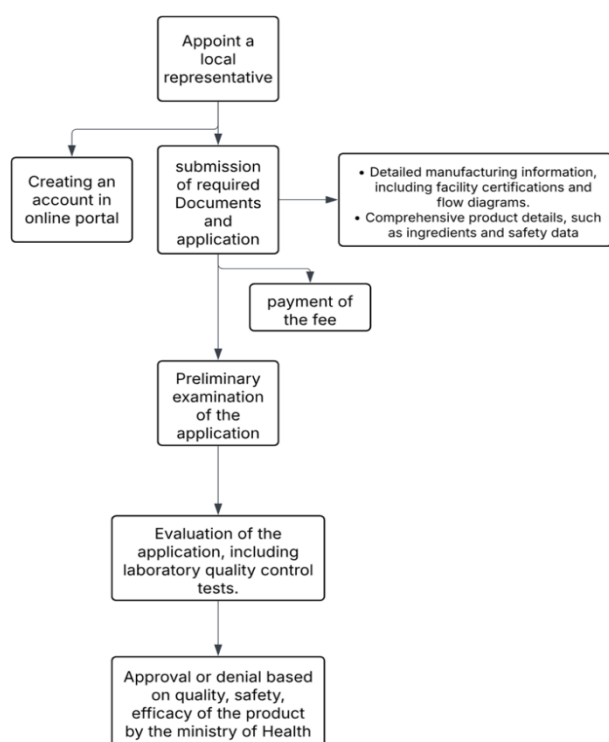


Figure 1: Cosmetic approval process in Algeria

Approval process:

To approve a product, start by creating an account on the Ministry of Health's online portal, ensuring company details and licenses are accurate, and appointing a local representative if you're an international entity. Gather and submit all required documentation, including product specifications, manufacturing details, safety data, and translations into French or Arabic if necessary. Fill out product-specific forms, submit separate applications for different categories, and pay the applicable fees—ranging from DZD,000–15,000 [refers to the Algerian Dinar, which is the official currency of Algeria] for pharmaceuticals, with medical device fees varying by risk class. Additional charges may apply for testing or inspections. The Ministry reviews the application, conducts tests, and may inspect facilities before approval, which can take weeks to months depending on complexity and submission quality. Cosmetic approval process of Algeria is given as flow chart in Figure 1⁶.

2) BAHRAIN⁷

Introduction:

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), established in 2010 under Law No. 38 of 2009, regulates healthcare in Bahrain across both governmental and private sectors to ensure safety, efficiency, and adherence to international best practices. Chaired by Lieutenant General Doctor Sheikh Mohamed Bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa, the NHRA oversees licensing of healthcare facilities and professionals, registration and pricing of cosmetics, pharmaceutical factory licensing, clinical trial approvals, and disciplinary procedures for misconduct claims. Bahrain complies with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), WHO guidelines, ICH requirements, and GCC standards, ensuring quality and harmonized regulations for pharmaceuticals and healthcare services.

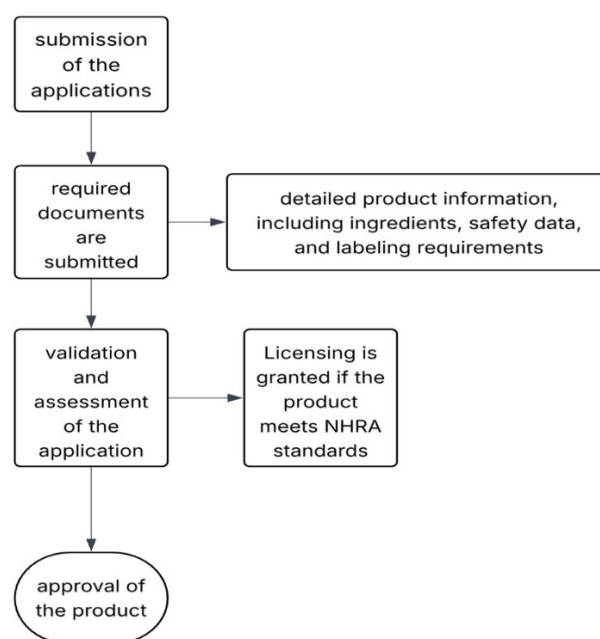


Figure 2: Approval process in Bahrain



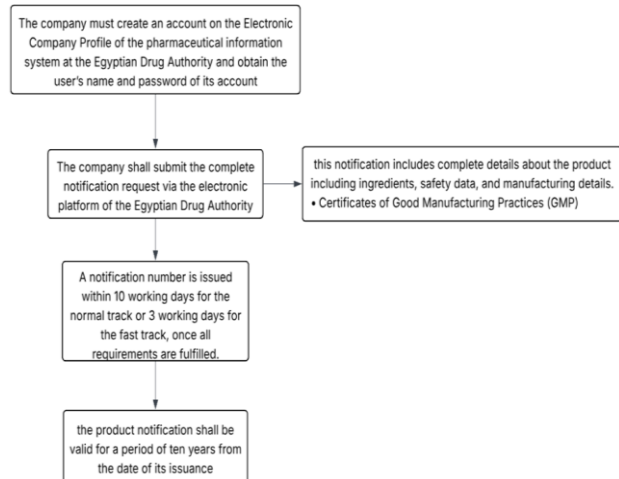
Approval process:

To obtain marketing authorization from the NHRA, an application must be submitted with all required data demonstrating the product's quality, safety, and efficacy. Detailed documentation, including product information, certificates of analysis, and compliance with international standards such as WHO and ICH, is essential. The NHRA conducts a thorough assessment and review, encompassing scientific evaluation, laboratory testing, and risk-benefit analysis. Upon meeting all requirements, the NHRA grants approval, allowing the product to be marketed. The approval process in Bahrain is given in Figure 2 ⁸.

3) EGYPT ⁹

Egypt's pharmaceutical landscape prioritizes public health through stringent regulations overseen by the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA). These regulations cover the entire lifecycle of drugs, medical devices, and cosmetics, ensuring safety, efficacy, and quality. The EDA enforces national and international standards, monitors Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and safeguards against counterfeit products. Egypt's alignment with global treaties, such as those by the World Health Organization (WHO), promotes best practices and builds confidence in its pharmaceutical products both locally and internationally.

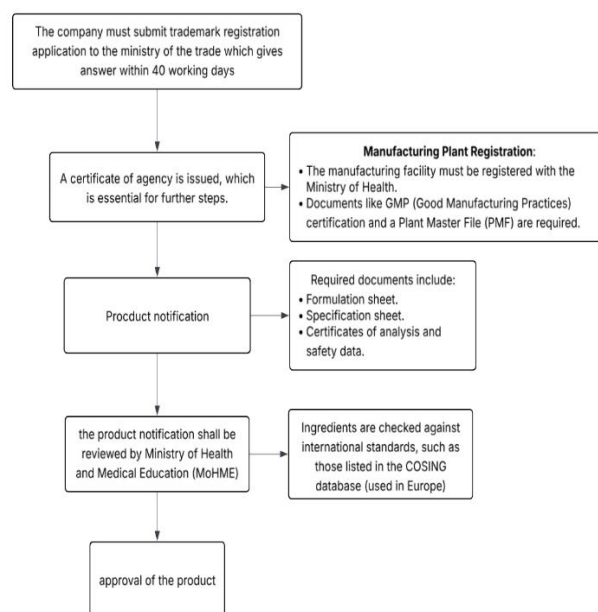
The regulatory rules and procedures for cosmetics notification in the Egyptian Drug Authority in accordance with the law of establishing the Authority promulgated by Law No. (151) of 2019. To apply for product notification, companies must submit a complete request via the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) online platform. A notification number is issued within 10 days for the normal track or 3 days for the fast track after meeting requirements and paying fees, with validity for ten years. Renewal requests must be submitted during the last year of validity, provided there are no changes to the product's data. Expired notifications without renewal require restarting the process. The EDA ensures cosmetics meet safety and quality standards, requiring detailed documentation such as ingredients, safety data, and manufacturing details. The approval process is given in Figure 3 ^{9,10}.

**Figure 3: Cosmetic approval process in Egypt****4) IRAN ¹¹****Introduction:**

Pharmaceutical regulations in Iran ensure the quality, safety, and efficacy of medications, medical devices, and cosmetics, addressing local practices and international standards. The Iranian Food and Drug Administration (IFDA), under the Ministry of Health, oversees approvals, monitoring, and post-market surveillance, safeguarding public health through stringent guidelines and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). Key legal instruments, such as the Pharmaceutical Law of 1983, govern registration, manufacturing, and distribution, adapting to the evolving pharmaceutical landscape. Collaborative bodies like the Supreme Council of Health shape policies, while inspections and strict enforcement maintain compliance. This framework protects against counterfeit products and fosters trust in healthcare systems.

Approval process:

Pharmaceutical companies must submit a detailed application to the Iranian Food and Drug Administration (IFDA), including product information, required documents such as a Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (COPP), GMP certification, eCTD format, analysis certificates, and Persian translations. The IFDA evaluates compliance with safety and quality standards, conducts laboratory testing, and grants marketing authorization for approved products, which are added to the national drug list. Post-market surveillance ensures safety and efficacy through cosmetovigilance programs. Figure 4 gives the approval process flow ¹².

**Figure 4: Cosmetic approval process in Iran****5) IRAQ ¹³****Introduction:**

Iraq's pharmaceutical regulations ensure the safety, efficacy, and quality of medications and cosmetics through



a structured framework. The Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Iraqi National Drug Control Authority oversee approval processes, manufacturing standards, and compliance, mitigating risks in drug production and distribution. The Directorate of Drug Control (DDC) manages cosmetics registration, inspections, and clinical trial supervision, ensuring adherence to safety standards. The National Centre for Drug Control and Research (NCDRC) focuses on research, providing guidance and aligning regulations with global standards. The National Health Insurance Company (NHIC) oversees fair pharmaceutical distribution and pricing compliance. Together, these bodies maintain high standards in healthcare while addressing Iraq's growing healthcare needs ¹³.

Approval process:

To obtain approval, companies must submit a comprehensive application to the Ministry of Health's Technical Affairs Directorate, including detailed product information, Certificates of Pharmaceutical Product (COPP), and clinical study results for New Chemical Entities (NCEs). Documentation requirements include GMP certification, bioavailability and bioequivalence studies (for generics), and packaging specifications in both English and Arabic. Products must be certified as free from pork-origin components, and alcohol content must be specified if used. The Ministry conducts laboratory testing and may inspect manufacturing facilities for safety and quality compliance. Approved products are registered for five years (imported) or ten years (domestic), and marketing authorization is granted upon meeting all requirements. Iraq approval process is given in Figure 1 ¹⁴.

6) THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) ¹⁵

Introduction:

The UAE's vibrant beauty industry is regulated by the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) and the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA) to ensure the safety, efficacy, and quality of cosmetics. Companies must register their products with MoIAT (Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology) and DM (Dubai Municipality), adhering to stringent standards and compliance requirements.

For pharmaceuticals, the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP), Health Authority – Abu Dhabi (HAAD), and Dubai Health Authority (DHA) oversee approvals, safety monitoring, and manufacturing compliance. ESMA enforces safety standards through testing and international alignment, while emirate-level authorities manage localized regulations. These bodies collaborate to protect public health and foster a reliable cosmetics and pharmaceutical market.

Approval process:

To legally register cosmetic products in Dubai, begin by forming a UAE-based company, either as a Dubai LLC (requiring a local service agent) or a Free Zone Company (offering 100% foreign ownership). Register your company

with Dubai Municipality by submitting the required documents. Next, provide a product sample and label for assessment, ensuring it lists ingredients, usage instructions, expiration dates, and any risks. The Consumer Safety Product Section (CSPS) tests the product for safety, efficacy, and compliance with UAE regulations. After passing, pay a registration fee (around AED 230 per product). Once approved, Dubai Municipality issues a registration certificate, valid for five years, allowing the product's legal import, export, and sale. Approval process of UAE is given in Figure 5 ¹⁶.

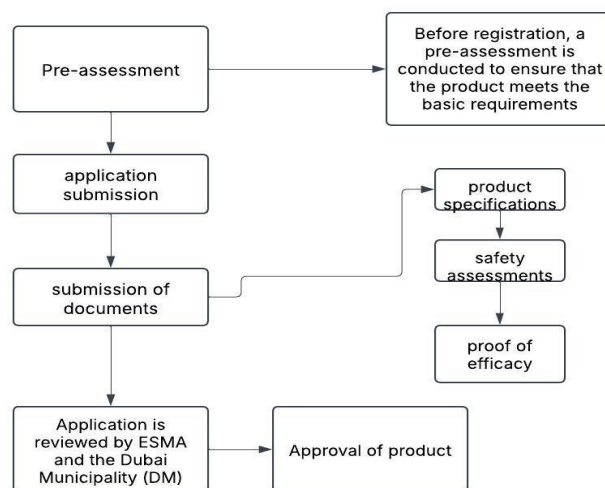


Figure 5: Cosmetic approval process in UAE

7) ISREAL ¹⁷

Introduction:

Pharmaceutical regulations in Israel ensure the safety, efficacy, and quality of products, including cosmetics, through a robust framework guided by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Israeli Food and Drug Administration (IFDA). The IFDA oversees product approval, clinical trials, and manufacturing practices, enforcing national and international standards. Collaborative bodies evaluate economic effectiveness and ethical protocols to protect public health. Strict adherence to regulations ensures compliance, transparency, and innovation while safeguarding patient safety. Regular inspections and audits address any discrepancies to maintain integrity in Israel's healthcare system.

Approval process:

To register a cosmetic product in Israel, appoint a Responsible Representative to manage the process and ensure compliance with local regulations. Prepare all necessary documents, including product composition, ingredient lists, safety assessments, certificates of analysis, and labelling details in Hebrew or English, while adhering to European standards (Regulation EC No. 1223/2009). Submit a notification to the Ministry of Health (MOH), replacing the traditional licensing process for faster registration. The MOH may evaluate the product or request additional information to verify safety and quality. Upon approval, the product can be marketed, with the Responsible

Representative maintaining documentation for regulatory audits. Approval process flow chart is given in Figure 1 ¹⁸.

8) OMAN ¹⁹

Introduction:

Oman's pharmaceutical and cosmetics regulations ensure public health by governing approval, manufacturing, and compliance processes. The Ministry of Health (MoH), along with the Directorate General of Pharmaceutical Affairs and Drug Control (DGPA), oversees evaluation, approvals, and inspections to maintain safety and quality standards. The DGPA monitors post-marketing drug safety and fosters adherence to international benchmarks through collaborations with entities like the World Health Organization (WHO). These efforts safeguard public health, encourage innovation, and uphold accountability within the industry, contributing to improved health outcomes ¹⁹.

Approval process:

Setting up a cosmetic business in Oman involves several key steps. First, register your business with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion (MOCIIP), including choosing a name, defining activities, submitting required documents like passport copies and lease agreements, and paying registration fees. Next, obtain a commercial license for manufacturing, importing, or distributing cosmetics. Each product must be approved by the Ministry of Health, requiring a detailed ingredient list, lab test reports, and GCC-compliant labelling and packaging. Local manufacturing facilities must meet Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), while imported products need import permits and customs clearance. Once all approvals are secured, a cosmetic product license is issued, allowing legal operations. Costs depend on business type, registration, product testing, and permits. Oman approval process flow chart is given in Figure 1 ²⁰.

9) JORDAN ²¹

Introduction:

Jordan's pharmaceutical regulations ensure the safety, efficacy, and quality of cosmetics and medications through a robust framework led by the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA). The JFDA evaluates product applications, enforces Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and monitors products post-market to align with local and international standards. It collaborates with stakeholders to enhance cosmetics safety and conducts educational programs for compliance. This evolving regulatory environment fosters trust, safeguards public health, and supports innovation within the healthcare system. Through rigorous oversight, the JFDA ensures products meet safety and quality benchmarks, benefiting public health and the pharmaceutical sector.

Approval process:

The Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA) ensures cosmetics meet safety and quality standards before market entry. Manufacturers must provide detailed product

information, including ingredients, safety data, and certificates of origin, with a sample possibly required for testing. Applications undergo review for compliance, and laboratory testing may verify product safety. Imported cosmetics must align with Jordanian regulations and have proper documentation for customs clearance. Fees apply to the approval process, which typically includes steps completed within around 3 days. Figure 6 gives approval process flow chart ²².

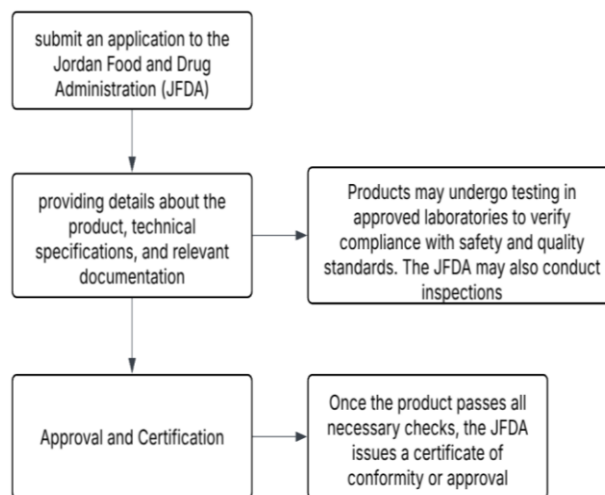


Figure 6: Cosmetic approval process in Jordan

10) LIBYA ²³

Introduction:

Libya's pharmaceutical regulations aim to ensure the safety, efficacy, and quality of medications and cosmetics, protecting public health and preventing counterfeit products. The National Centre for Drug Control and Research (NCDCR), under the Ministry of Health, oversees product approval, evaluation, and monitoring while ensuring compliance with international standards like those from the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH). The Pharmaceutical Affairs Department handles registration and licensing of manufacturers, importers, and wholesalers, ensuring adherence to guidelines and mitigating distribution risks. These regulations foster transparency, accountability, and improved health outcomes for the population.

Approval process:

The cosmetics approval process in Libya involves classifying the product, preparing a dossier with product details and compliance data, and submitting it to the FDCC or LMOH for review, which may include testing and inspections. Approved products are registered, granted marketing authorization, and monitored post-market for ongoing compliance. Approval process is given in Figure 7 ²⁴.

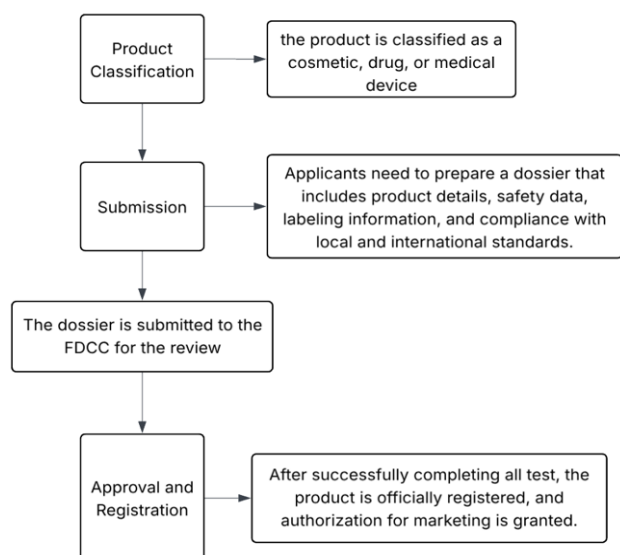


Figure 7: Cosmetic approval process in Libya

11) MOROCCO²⁵

Introduction:

Morocco's regulatory framework for cosmetics is overseen by the Ministry of Health, which ensures that all cosmetic products meet safety, efficacy, and quality standards before entering the market. Manufacturers and importers are required to register their products with the Direction du Médicament et de la Pharmacie (DMP). The process involves submitting a comprehensive dossier, including product composition, safety assessments, and compliance with labelling requirements in Arabic. Products must adhere to international guidelines, such as those outlined in the EU Directive 76/768/EEC, and avoid harmful substances like carcinogens or mutagens. The framework also includes post-market surveillance to maintain ongoing compliance and protect consumer health²⁵.

Approval process:

To register cosmetic products in Morocco, applicants must approach the Ministry of Health and assemble technical documentation, including product formulation, ingredient lists, manufacturing processes, stability data, and safety assessments. Labels must comply with Moroccan regulations and be in Arabic. If the product contains new ingredients, a toxicological assessment may be required. Applicants fill out an application form, attach photocopies of all required documents, and submit them with the prescribed fee. Once reviewed and accepted, an acknowledgment receipt is issued, and updates are sent via SMS. The process typically takes 1–2 months, culminating in market authorization for legal sale and distribution. Figure 1 shows approval process²⁶.

12) PALESTINE²⁷

Introduction:

Palestine's cosmetics regulatory framework is overseen by the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH). The process involves the submission of a detailed application, including

product formulation, safety data, labelling information, and certificates of origin. Products must comply with local and international safety and quality standards. The Food and Drug Control Centre (FDCC) plays a key role in evaluating applications, conducting laboratory testing, and ensuring compliance. Approved products are registered and granted marketing authorization, typically valid for five years, with post-market surveillance ensuring ongoing adherence to regulations.

Approval process:

In Palestine, the cosmetics approval process is overseen by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Manufacturers and importers must submit a detailed application, including product formulation, safety data, labelling information, and certificates of origin. The application is reviewed for compliance with safety and quality standards, and laboratory testing may be conducted. Approved products are registered and granted marketing authorization, typically valid for five years. Post-market surveillance ensures ongoing compliance. Figure 1 gives flow chart of approval process²⁸.

13) QATAR²⁹

Introduction:

Qatar's pharmaceutical regulations, overseen by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), ensure public health by maintaining safety, efficacy, and quality standards across the lifecycle of drugs, medical products, and cosmetics. The framework integrates local legal requirements with international guidelines like WHO and ICH standards, enabling reliable healthcare services and fostering innovative treatments. This alignment supports trade, collaboration, and improved health outcomes for local and expatriate populations while encouraging the structured growth of the pharmaceutical industry.

Approval process:

In Qatar, the Drug Control Department oversees cosmetic product registration. Applicants submit forms detailing country of origin, ingredients, usage instructions, storage, warnings, and product samples. The Committee classifies products or issues exemptions, requesting additional approvals or tests if prohibited substances (e.g., pork derivatives) are suspected. Foreign companies can register products by importing through a local agent or establishing a legal presence. Required documents include Certificates of Free Sale and Analysis, and proof of compliance with standards. Approved products are registered and granted marketing authorization. Approval process of Qatar is given in Figure 1³⁰.

14) SYRIA

Pharmaceutical regulations in Syria are overseen by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Syrian Drug and Food Administration (SDFA). The MoH formulates health policies and ensures cosmetics safety, efficacy, and accessibility, while the SDFA evaluates and approves cosmetics,

conducting inspections to enforce Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). Collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, NGOs, and international entities strengthens the regulatory framework, facilitates training, and promotes transparency. This coordinated approach ensures comprehensive oversight, enhancing safety, compliance, and addressing evolving public health needs.

To register a cosmetic product in Syria, manufacturers or importers must submit an application detailing product information, including formulation, safety assessments, and labelling. Required documentation includes a Certificate of Free Sale, a Certificate of Analysis, and proof of compliance with local and international standards. Authorities evaluate the application to ensure adherence to safety and quality standards, conducting laboratory testing if necessary. Upon successful evaluation, the product is registered, and a marketing authorization is issued. Approval process is given in Figure 1.

15) YEMEN ³¹

Yemen's pharmaceutical regulations, shaped by socioeconomic challenges and health infrastructure limitations, prioritize public health and cosmetics safety. The Ministry of Public Health and Population (MPHP) coordinates regulations, while the Central Organization for Standardization and Metrology (COSQM) sets pharmaceutical standards. The Yemen Food and Drug Authority (YFDA) evaluates and licenses pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, ensuring safety, quality, and adherence to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). Collaboration among these bodies fosters transparency, accountability, and trust, enhancing healthcare and improving population health outcomes.

To register cosmetics in Yemen, start by classifying the product to confirm if it falls under the cosmetic category. Prepare a dossier with product composition, ingredient lists, certificates of analysis, safety assessments, and labelling/packaging details in Arabic or English. Submit the application to the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) with the required documentation and fees. The MoPHP will evaluate the product for safety, efficacy, and compliance with standards, conducting laboratory testing if necessary, before granting approval. Approval process is given in Figure 1.

16) TUNISIA ³²

Tunisia's pharmaceutical regulatory framework ensures public health through rigorous oversight of medication and cosmetics safety, efficacy, and quality. Key bodies include the Ministry of Health, which oversees health policies, and the National Agency for Medicines and Health Products (ANM), responsible for product regulation, licensing, and monitoring. The National Institute of Standardization and Industrial Property (INNORPI) aids in establishing manufacturing standards, while the Ministry of Trade ensures compliance in drug imports and exports. Collaboration between these entities fosters transparency,

adherence to international standards, and a sustainable healthcare system.

In Tunisia, the cosmetics approval process is overseen by the Ministry of Health and the Directorate of Pharmacy and Medicine. Applicants must submit a dossier containing product formulation, safety assessments, and labelling details. Products must comply with local and international standards, including Halal requirements for applicable items. Once evaluated and approved, the product is registered, and marketing authorization is granted. Approval process is given in Figure 1.

17) SAUDI ARABIA: ³³

Introduction:

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) regulates cosmetics in Saudi Arabia, aligning with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) guidelines based on EU Cosmetic Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009. According to the Law of Cosmetic Products (Royal Decree M/49 on 18/6/1436 AH), imported or traded cosmetic products must be listed in the Electronic System for Listing Cosmetic Products. This system organizes the import, trade, and marketing of cosmetics, and provides a comprehensive database of marketed products, importers, and manufacturers to ensure high-quality and safe cosmetics.

Approval process:

Cosmetic products entering the Saudi market must be registered with the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA). Manufacturers and distributors are required to provide detailed documentation, including product ingredients, formulations, and safety assessments, to ensure compliance with Saudi regulations and consumer safety. The Cosmetic Notification system (eCosma) records products in SFDA's database but does not imply SFDA's evaluation of their safety. Instead, it creates a comprehensive record of local and imported products, with the notifier responsible for ensuring the accuracy of information and product safety. Approval process for Saudi is given in Figure 8 ³³.

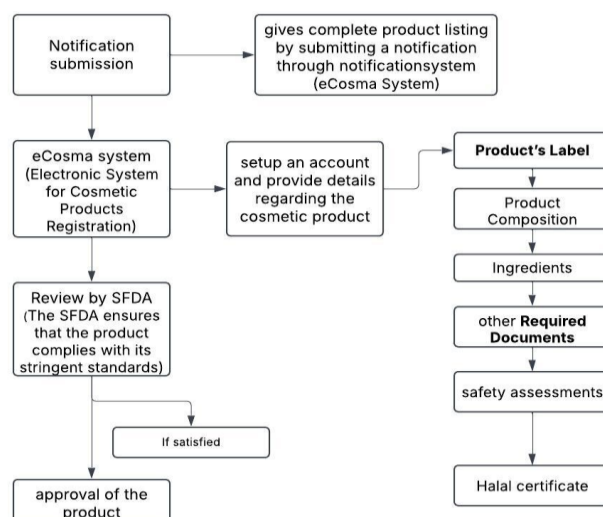


Figure 8: Cosmetic approval process in Saudi Arabia

18) LEBANON³⁴

Lebanon's pharmaceutical regulations ensure the safety and quality of medications and cosmetics, fostering public trust and market integrity. The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) establishes health policies, oversees drug registration, and educates citizens on safe cosmetics use. The Drug and Pharmacy Administration (DPA) implements these regulations, conducting cosmetics registration, safety evaluations, and inspections to enforce Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). Collaboration between regulatory bodies and pharmaceutical companies enhances efficiency, supports innovation, and ensures public health while navigating healthcare complexities.

In Lebanon, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) oversees cosmetics regulation, ensuring safety and quality before market entry. Manufacturers must submit detailed product information, including ingredients, safety data, and manufacturing details, while complying with labelling standards to avoid misleading claims. Applications undergo review for compliance, with laboratory testing conducted if necessary. Products require market authorization for sale or distribution. Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certification is often mandatory to demonstrate production quality. Imported cosmetics must adhere to Lebanese regulations and provide additional documentation if required. Approval process is given in Figure 9.

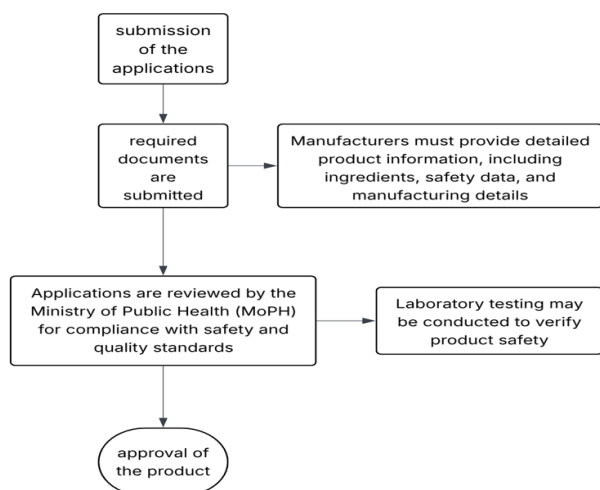


Figure 9: Cosmetic approval process in Lebanon

CONCLUSION

Getting a cosmetics product approved in the MENA region isn't always straightforward. Each country has its own rules and steps, so doing good research and working with local experts really helps. If businesses understand what's needed and follow the right process, they can successfully enter the market. With demand for beauty products growing fast in this region, taking time to prepare properly can lead to great results. The cosmetics industry in the MENA region presents both opportunities and challenges for businesses seeking market entry. With a diverse regulatory landscape that varies from one country to another, understanding local compliance requirements is

essential for success. By staying informed, collaborating with trusted regional partners, and aligning product development with consumer preferences and legal standards, companies can navigate the approval process effectively. As the beauty market continues to expand across MENA, streamlined registration and strategic planning will be key to unlocking its full potential.

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