

# ORGÀNICS CLEAN AWARDS

*The Most Demanding Awards on Cosmetics*

## CATEGORIES

The *VIII Orgànics Clean Awards* include two types of categories: Product and Brand.

**PRODUCT CATEGORY:** All submitted products that comply with these rules may enter this category, regardless of whether they are certified or not.

**BRAND CATEGORY:** All brands that comply with these rules and submit an application for three or more products may enter this category, regardless of whether they are certified or clean.

There are two brand distinctions:

### 1. CERTIFIED BRAND (NATURAL / ORGANIC / BIODYNAMIC)

This distinction is open to brands that submit an application for three or more products, are certified by a recognised natural, organic and/or biodynamic certification body, and comply with Annex I Prohibited Ingredients.

To be eligible for this distinction, at least 80% of the brand's cosmetic catalogue must be certified by one of the certification bodies listed below.

### 2. CLEAN BRAND

This distinction is open to brands that submit an application for three or more products and, although not certified, comply with Annex I Prohibited Ingredients.

Any brand with less than 80% of its products certified will compete under the Clean Brand distinction.

In 2026, given the quality of the products and the strictness of these rules, there will be only one overall brand award. What will differ is the distinction granted, depending on whether the winning brand is certified or clean.

For example, if the jury considers that the best brand in Spain is a certified cosmetics brand, it will receive the Certified Brand distinction.

If, on the other hand, the best brand in Spain is a clean cosmetics brand, it will receive the Clean Brand distinction.

## GENERAL CRITERIA

A.

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To enter the Certified Brand category, participating brands must have at least 80% of their cosmetic products certified by one of the following European certifying bodies within the natural, organic and/or biodynamic cosmetics categories:

Acene, AIAB, Austria Bio Garantie, Balcan Biocert, BDIH, Bio Cert Italia, Biogarantie, Bio Austria, Bio Inspecta, Bioland, Bio Siegel, CCPB, Cosmebio, COSMOS, Demeter, Ecocert, Eco Control, ICEA, Natrue or Soil Association.

International certifiers such as Australia Certified Organic, NASAA, JAS and USDA are also accepted. However, Ecolabel, EWG and ISO 16128 are not accepted for this category, as they allow a significant number of ingredients prohibited by European organic certification bodies. Brands certified under those schemes may enter the Clean Brand category instead.

In all cases, both certified and clean brands must comply with all requirements and restrictions set out in Annex I Prohibited Ingredients.

For the purposes of these awards, the cosmetic catalogue shall be understood as all products intended for topical application for aesthetic or hygiene purposes.

B.

To enter the Clean Brand category, participating brands must comply with all the requirements set out in Annex I Prohibited Ingredients. Brands with less than 80% of their cosmetic catalogue certified may only apply under the Clean Brand category.

For the purposes of these awards, the cosmetic catalogue shall be understood as all products intended for topical application for aesthetic or hygiene purposes.

C.

All products submitted to the *VIII Organics Clean Awards* must still be available for sale in January 2027. In the case of certified cosmetics, certification must remain valid at that time.

D.

Brands may not compete for brand awards if any product within the brand contains any of the ingredients listed in Annex I Prohibited Ingredients, except for those marked with an asterisk. Products containing ingredients marked with an asterisk may not be entered into the awards, but they may still be part of the brand's wider catalogue without disqualifying the brand from receiving a brand award.

E.

Brands applying for the Non-Certified Clean Brand category must ensure that all of their products comply with Annex I Prohibited Ingredients, except for those marked

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with an asterisk. Products containing ingredients marked with an asterisk may not be entered into the awards, but they may still be part of the brand's wider catalogue without disqualifying the brand from receiving a brand award.

F.

In the case of make-up, several shades of the same product may be submitted in order to better suit different skin tones. The INCI may vary only in the pigment blend, not in the rest of the formula.

Our jury includes a variety of skin tones, although phototypes II and III are the most common. Products should therefore be submitted in shades suitable for those predominant phototypes so that they can be properly tested.

For foundations and primers, the award will be granted to the product itself. For lipsticks, blushers, eyeshadows, mascaras, highlighters, nail polishes, eye pencils and lip pencils, the award will be granted to the specific shade rather than to the product as a whole.

The same principle will apply to perfumes, home fragrances, candles and diffusers. Several products may be submitted under the same application, but the award will be granted to one specific scent rather than to the full range.

Companies submitting 6 to 10 products will benefit from a two-for-one offer when entering products from the children's care, make-up and men's care ranges. Brands submitting 10 to 15 products will be entitled to 10 to 15 additional free entries from the children's care, make-up and men's care ranges, on top of their original 10 to 15 submissions.

For every cosmetic product submitted, brands may also enter one additional product free of charge from one of the following categories:

Home: laundry detergents, household cleaning sprays, soap nuts, scourers, cleaning brushes, air fresheners, essential oils, insect sprays, candles, reed diffusers, pet products.

Beauty accessories: toiletry bags, hair and body brushes, sponges, muslins, konjac sponges, bowls and spoons, hair ties and headbands, towels, make-up brushes, razors, gua shas and other facial or body massage tools, seed bags, mirrors.

Children: bottles and accessories for children's feeding and hygiene.

Natural and certified supplements.

## JURY CRITERIA

Awards for both products and brands will be granted according to the following criteria, listed in order of importance:

A.

Results: Products will be tested by a mixed panel of at least 12 individuals selected by Orgànics Magazine, including both people familiar with natural cosmetics and people with no professional connection to the sector. The panel will include a wide age range, from 1 to 70 years old, and a variety of skin types and conditions, including sensitive skin, atopic dermatitis, rosacea, combination skin, dry skin and mature skin, as well as additional testing panels for men's, younger and children's skin.

Results will be a key part of the evaluation. In other words, the product must deliver on the claims it makes.

B.

Sensory qualities: Since these are cosmetics, sensoriality is a fundamental part of the assessment. The jury will take into account texture, aroma, absorption and overall skin comfort, as well as whether the product remains stable throughout the testing period without changes in texture, scent or consistency.

C.

Composition: Particular value will be given to formulas that place oils, butters, extracts and active ingredients high up in the INCI list, as well as to the extraction methods used, such as supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> extraction, first cold pressing or raw materials, and to the actual quantity of such ingredients within the formula.

D.

Packaging and presentation: The jury will assess design, packaging quality, packaging sustainability, minimisation of plastic use and the absence of unnecessary elements.

E.

Value for money.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS

A.

Entry fees for product categories range from €250 to €490.

Discounted rates apply from the fourth product onwards.

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For each cosmetic product entered, one beauty accessory, nutricosmetic product or home product may also be entered completely free of charge and will compete in the relevant category or categories.

B.

For each product entered, the brand or distributor must send retail-size units before 15 June 2026. Products received after 15 June 2026 will not be accepted.

## 4 RETAIL-SIZE UNITS

1. Facial products: serums and oils (30 ml), and face creams (50 ml).
2. Shared accessories: gua sha tools, bowls, ceramic spoons, rollers.
3. Pet products.
4. Eye contour products, provided they are not roll-on.
5. Facial and body sunscreens.
6. Make-up: primers, foundations, BB creams, etc., submitted as 2 units in 2 different shades suitable for phototypes II and III, so that the jury may choose the most appropriate match for their skin.
7. Face and body masks and exfoliators.
8. Children's products.

## 6 RETAIL-SIZE UNITS

9. Facial cleansing products: micellar waters, liquid soaps, toners, hydrolats, balms, oils.
10. Facial products: ampoule treatments, anti-dark-spot treatments or other specific products that require a longer testing period in order to assess results properly.
11. Body products: body creams, oils, lotions, anti-stretch-mark creams and oils, anti-cellulite creams and oils, products for tired legs, products for bruising, all-in-one products.
12. Hygiene products: shower gels, conditioners, masks, hair oils, shampoos and hair treatments.
13. Perfumes.
14. Nutricosmetics and supplements.
15. Home products: candles, room fragrances, incense, cleaning products.

## 7 RETAIL-SIZE UNITS

16. Single-dose products.
17. Roll-on products of any kind.
18. Solid products: soaps, butters, deodorants, shampoos.
19. Hygiene products: toothpastes, deodorants, lip balms, intimate hygiene products, sticks.
20. Make-up: mascaras, lipsticks, eyeshadows, blushers.

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21. Non-shareable accessories: muslins, tongue scrapers, dental floss, body brushes, hairbrushes, toothbrushes, sponges, brushes, soap dishes, toiletry bags.

If additional products are required, the brand must send the necessary units within one week to ensure that the testing process can be carried out properly.

C.

Sunscreen products must be accompanied by documentation confirming the absence of nanoparticles, including a report detailing the smallest, largest and average particle size of the mineral UV filter used. Particle size must be stated excluding any coating.

If it is later discovered that the product contains nanoparticle filters, the award will be withdrawn. This clause applies only to sunscreens awarded from the *V Organics Clean Awards* onwards.

D.

Each product may compete in as many relevant categories as applicable, at no additional cost.

In addition, entry into any category automatically grants free access to the beauty accessories, nutricosmetics and home categories.

E.

From the third product entered onwards, brands automatically qualify for the Brand Awards and will compete in all applicable categories within their own distinction, Certified Brand or Clean Brand, based on the products submitted. For example, if a brand has children's products but does not submit at least three children's products, it may not compete in that specific category.

F.

In order to properly assess professional protocols in the categories intended for professionals, treatment rooms and spas, those products must be evaluated within the protocol proposed by the participating brand. This means that the jury must be directed to a specialised centre in the province of Valencia, where the participating product or protocol will be applied to at least 6 members of the jury selected according to the dermatological profile best suited to the treatment.

If the brand does not have a specialised centre in the province of Valencia, it may provide a centre outside the province or arrange for a professional to travel so that the jury can properly assess the product or protocol.

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All treatments must be covered by the participating company. If travel outside the province of Valencia is required, those costs must also be covered by the participating company.

G.

Any product or brand category may be left without a winner if the submitted entries do not meet the standards required to receive an award.

Special mentions may also be granted to brands and products deserving outstanding recognition.

H.

If any product contains any of the ingredients listed in Annex I Prohibited Ingredients, it will not be eligible for any award and the entry fee will not be refunded.

However, the brand may recover the products at its own expense by covering the return shipping costs.

Likewise, a brand will be excluded from the Brand Awards if any of its products contains any of the ingredients listed in Annex I Prohibited Ingredients, except for those marked with an asterisk, which may be present in other products within the brand provided that such products do not make up more than 50% of the brand's catalogue.

I.

Winning brands, finalists and any special mentions will receive the award seal in PNG format on the day the awards are announced, and may use it on their products, websites and packaging at no additional cost and without limitation.

J.

The award does not expire and will only be withdrawn if the product or brand is no longer certified, or if the formula is downgraded by reducing the quality of more than 20% of its ingredients, for example by replacing a hydrolat with water, but not the other way round.

If, however, any ingredient prohibited under these rules is introduced, any previously granted product or brand award will be revoked and may no longer be used.

K.

The organisation is not responsible for customs duties in the case of products not registered on the European Cosmetics Portal. Any customs charges, as well as the

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management of the required documentation and the timely delivery of the products, will be the responsibility of the brand.

L.

By submitting an application, the person responsible for the brand and/or its distributor accepts the terms and conditions set out in these rules and must also provide a signed sworn statement.

## DOCUMENTATION

Each company must complete the Brand Form. For the Product Form, a URL may be provided containing the following information:

Product type

Instructions for use

INCI

Retail price

The URL must be preceded by the name of the submitted product exactly as it appears on the packaging. For example:

Lavender Body Cream: URL

The link to complete the form will be sent once the corresponding application has been submitted.

## TIMELINE

A.

The application period will open on 1 May 2026 and close on 1 June 2026.

B.

Products may be sent until 15 June 2026 at the latest. Products not received by that date will not be eligible to participate and the entry fee will not be refunded.

C.

The *VIII ORGÀNICS CLEAN AWARDS* will be held virtually on 2 November 2026. On that day, both winners and non-winners will receive an email with the jury's decision.

D.

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For any questions related to the awards, please contact our team at [info@organicscleanawards.com](mailto:info@organicscleanawards.com).

## ANNEX I. PROHIBITED INGREDIENTS

### Ingredient Exclusion Criteria

These awards were created with a clear purpose: to distinguish between what merely complies with the law and what truly respects health and the environment. Regulatory compliance does not necessarily mean that a product is harmless, let alone genuinely safe in the long term.

For this reason, beyond current regulatory frameworks, these awards apply their own criteria based on the available scientific evidence, the precautionary principle and consistency with truly respectful cosmetics.

All ingredients with potential for endocrine disruption, bioaccumulation, environmental persistence, medium- or long-term toxicity, or the capacity to generate hazardous compounds during use or degradation are excluded.

Likewise, not only the ingredients expressly listed below are excluded, but also any functionally equivalent substance, chemical derivative or ingredient which, even under another name, performs a similar function or shares comparable toxicological risks.

### List of Excluded Ingredients

#### Acrylamides

Acrylates, Carbomer, Polyacrylate Crosspolymer and other non-biodegradable synthetic acrylic polymers

Aluminium Chlorohydrate

Aluminium Chlorohydrex

Aluminium Chlorohydrex PG

Aluminium Sesquichlorohydrate

Aluminium Zirconium Trichlorohydrex GLY

Amines (DEA, MEA, TEA) and ethanolamine derivatives

Ammonium Lauryl Sulfate\*

Benzene and benzene derivatives such as toluene and xylene

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Benzophenone and its derivatives, including Benzophenone-3

BHA (Butylated Hydroxyanisole)

BHT (Butylated Hydroxytoluene)

Bisphenol A (BPA), Bisphenol S (BPS) and derivatives

Borates, Boric Acid and Sodium Borate. Stable mineral structures such as Sodium Borosilicate, Calcium Sodium Borosilicate and other borosilicates are permitted, provided that they do not release free boron under normal conditions of use and meet the relevant safety criteria.

Bronopol

Ceresin

Cyclotetrasiloxane (D4)

Cyclopentasiloxane (D5)

Cyclohexasiloxane (D6)

Diazolidinyl Urea

Dimethicone and other silicones

Disodium EDTA and other persistent chelating derivatives, including Tetrasodium EDTA

DMDM Hydantoin

Ethoxylated ingredients, including PEG, PPG, Laureth, Cetareth and related compounds

Ethylhexyl Methoxycinnamate (Octinoxate)

FD&C colors

Fluorinated compounds (PFAS)

Formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing ingredients

Fragrance / Parfum that is not fully traceable in composition or that contains synthetic compounds not individually disclosed

Galaxolide

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Hexane and related solvents

Homosalate

Hydroquinone

Imidazolidinyl Urea

Isothiazolinones, including Methylisothiazolinone and Methylchlorisothiazolinone

Laureth compounds, including Sodium Laureth Sulfate

Microplastics, including Polyethylene, Nylon-12 and PMMA

Mineral Oil, Paraffinum Liquidum and Petrolatum

Synthetic musks, including Tonalide

Nanoparticles, including titanium dioxide [nano], zinc oxide [nano] and coated nanoparticle forms, given that current legislation allows the presence of nanoparticles under certain labelling conditions

Octocrylene

Parabens, including Methylparaben and Propylparaben

PEG / PPG and derivatives

Phenoxyethanol

Polyquaternium and other synthetic cationic polymers

Quaternium-15

Resorcinol

Selenium Sulfide

Siloxanes

Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (SLS)\*

Sodium Laureth Sulfate (SLES)

Talc not certified as asbestos-free

Toluene

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Triclocarban

Triclosan

Xylene

1,4-Dioxane, as a contaminant associated with ethoxylated ingredients

The absence of an ingredient from this list does not imply its automatic acceptance. The organisation reserves the right to assess any ingredient not explicitly listed and to exclude it where there is reasonable doubt regarding its safety, environmental impact or consistency with the values of these awards.

The inclusion of certain ingredients is based not only on their toxicological profile, but also on criteria relating to environmental persistence, accumulation, and consistency with sustainable cosmetics and greener manufacturing practices.