



## LEBENSMITTELCHEMISCHE GESELLSCHAFT

- Fachgruppe in der GESELLSCHAFT DEUTSCHER CHEMIKER -  
Arbeitsgruppe Kosmetische Mittel

**Data sheets for the evaluation of the effectiveness of active ingredients in cosmetic products**

### Information on the pH value for cosmetic products

This recommendation applies to cosmetic products where the pH value is highlighted in the labelling.

It does not apply to preparation forms such as water-in-oil emulsions, for which the pH value by definition has practically no or only little significance.

Information on the pH value of cosmetic products is used, among other things, to draw the consumer's attention to certain properties of the product (pH neutral, skin-friendly pH value, etc.) [1].

The literature data on the physiological pH value of the skin surface vary greatly. Depending on the location (body part) and time of measurement (time of year/day) as well as the sex and age of the test persons, values in the range of 4.0 - 6.5 are given [2,3,4].

In a multicentre study, it was shown that the pH value of healthy skin at the measurement site of the forearm can lie in a pH range between 4.1 - 5.8 at a 95% interval, with a median of 4.8 [4]. According to the authors, these results can be considered representative of the pH value of healthy skin, with the exception of the skin under the armpits and in the genital area [see 2].

#### Products with the following specifications

Examples	pH value	analytical tolerance
"pH-neutral"	7,0	± 0,3
Product adjusted to "pH 6"	6,0	± 0,3
Product adjusted to " <u>approx.</u> pH 6"	6,0	± 0,5

## Products with promotional claims

Examples	pH value	Tolerance
"pH skin neutral", "pH skin ideal", "skin-friendly pH" etc. (depending on the intended place of application).	4,1 - 5,8 [4]	

### 1. Note

The general notes and recommendations of this data sheet series must be taken into account as well as the currently applicable legal standards.

### 2. Literature

- [1] J. Hild, *Perfumery and Cosmetics* **74**, 634 - 637 (1993).
- [2] J.Gottfreund, M. Arens-Corell, T.Meyer, *SÖFW Journal* **130**, 9-2004, 72 -76
- [3] Raab, W; Kindl, U: *Pflegekosmetik*, 3rd ed. 1999, Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart, New York
- [4] D. Segger et al, *IFSCC Magazine* **10**, 107 - 110 (2007)

### 3. Note

The old data sheet - published in *SÖFW Journal* 128 12/2002, 73 - hereby loses its validity.

All valid data sheets in the respective current version can be found at:  
<http://www.gdch.de/strukturen/fg/lm/ag/kosmetik.htm>