

Frequently Asked Questions

Supplement to

Multifunctionals for the Microbiological Protection of Cosmetics and Personal Care Products

1. What are the roles of preservatives and multifunctionals in a cosmetic or personal care product and how are they different?

Preservatives are ingredients specifically added to personal care formulations in order to control microbiological contamination. Multifunctionals, on the other hand, are ingredients that offer multiple benefits to a personal care product. Their primary function is to enhance the esthetics, functionality, stability, or performance of the product. It is only their secondary function to support in the protection against microbial contamination.

2. What are the key benefits of using multifunctionals?

The key potential benefits of using multifunctionals are their ability to deliver multiple useful functions simultaneously, which could streamline the product development process, reduce formulation complexity, shorten product INCI lists, and support minimalistic formulation goals.

3. Are multifunctionals beneficial for antimicrobial product protection?

Multifunctionals, by enhancing product protection, offer flexible options for formulators to build robust product protection systems, especially as regulatory restrictions and consumer concerns (e.g., about the impact of preservatives on the skin's healthy microbiome and environment, as well as human health, etc.) limit the use of certain preservatives.

4. Does the efficacy testing of multifunctionals require special considerations?

The same protocols apply as to any other ingredient used for antimicrobial protection. Furthermore, certain tests of personal care products, such as the Preservative

Efficacy Test, concern the entire formulation irrespective of the particular ingredients used.

5. Can multifunctionals be used in combination with preservatives?

Yes, multifunctional ingredients can be used in combination with preservatives, and in many cases, this is recommended or even necessary.

6. Are there any synergistic effects between multifunctionals and other ingredients?

Many multifunctionals have been demonstrated to have synergistic performance in combination with other ingredients in personal care formulations. These synergistic interactions can enhance both antimicrobial protection and overall product performance.

7. Do multifunctionals have broad spectrum efficacy?

All multifunctionals can support broad spectrum performance in the right combination with other antimicrobial ingredients. While some multifunctionals are more efficacious against bacteria and less against fungi, others show good efficacy against both types of microorganisms.