

Cosmetics & Personal Care Import in Japan

Cosmetic & Personal Care products are regulated by the Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Agency (PMDA) in Japan and requires pre-approval.

First Shipment with COVUE

- Import Application (per shipment)
- Approval by PMDA (one time)
- One Application per Manufacturing Plant
- Up to 50 SKUs (per application)
- Average Approval Time: 28 days

Note:

- The Japan Pharmaceuticals and Medical Device Agency (PMDA) is the governing body for Cosmetics & Personal Care products.
- Only a Japanese company licensed for Import, Sales & Marketing of Cosmetics & Personal Care products can legally import the product on behalf of the foreign seller.
- Whoever handles the Japan import application will control the product rights, regardless of the contractual agreement between the importer and the license holder.
- Regulated products cannot be shipped directly. They must arrive at the facility of the license holder where the products are registered.
- The products must undergo a compliance inspection for labeling and random lab testing.

Application Requirements:

- Ingredients listed by percentage in INCI format
(International Nomenclature of Cosmetic Ingredients)
- Product claims
- Manufacturing plant information
- Origin of ingredients (if requested)

Steps

- 1 Submit your product information to COVUE compliance for pre-application review
- 2 Register your company under COVUE's license
- 3 Register your product on your COVUE account
- 4 Open a cosmetics & personal care import application (notification) with PMDA
- 5 Product label creation and registration
- 6 Lab testing* of products (included with application fee)
- 7 Receive approval for import
- 8 Create a shipping invoice from the COVUE IOR account
- 9 Ship to COVUE for IQC (required by Japan PMDA)
- 10 Ship to the final destination

*Note: *Japan law requires all PMDA-regulated products to be received at the licensed IOR facility. The process takes 48-72 hours.*