



# E.F.E.O.

European Federation of Essential oils

## European Federation of Essential Oils Code of Conduct

Version June 2011

### Field of Application

This Code of Conduct shall be applicable to all Federation members manufacturing or marketing essential oils, absolutes, concretes, or related natural aromatic extracts hereafter referred to as Natural Complex Substances, whatever use is made of them.

The Code of Conduct requires all members to adopt a transparent and ethical approach to standard operating practice within the Essential Oil industry and where necessary a level of transparency over the origin and production of the products to ensure their appropriate and safe use. The objective of which is to maintain confidence from end users, official authorities and consumers when handling such products.

While it is expected that all members involved in the trade and manufacture of Natural Complex Substances shall comply with this Code of Conduct, this does not release members from their obligations under national or international regulations relevant to their field of operation.

### Definitions

The following definitions (as laid down under ISO 9235:1997- aromatic natural raw materials vocabulary) shall be applicable in trade between companies applying this EFEO Code of Conduct:

#### **Natural Raw Material**

Raw material of vegetable, animal or microbiological origin, including the products derived from this material by enzymatic processes or by traditional procedures of preparation (e.g. drying, torrefaction or fermentation).

#### **Essential Oil**

An essential oil is a volatile product obtained from vegetable raw material:

- either by distillation with water or steam or
- from the epicarp of Citrus fruits by a mechanical process or
- by dry distillation.

(Definition as per NF T 75-006)

#### **Extract**

Product obtained by treating a natural raw material with a solvent, then after filtration, partial or total removal of the solvent by distillation, except in the case of use of a non volatile solvent.

#### **Concrete**

Extract with a characteristic odour obtained from a fresh vegetable raw material by extraction with a non aqueous solvent.

**Resinoid**

Extract with a characteristic odour obtained from a dried vegetable raw material by extraction with a non aqueous solvent.

**Absolute**

Product with odour, obtained from a concrete, pomade or a resinoid by extraction with ethanol at room temperature.

**Oleoresin**

Extract of spices or aromatic herbs with a characteristic odour and / or flavour.

**Labelling**

Without prejudice to customers labelling requirements and to relevant legal obligations where applicable, EFEO members commit themselves to meet with the following EFEO guidelines regarding labelling:

- Members shall label their products accurately and in a manner which clearly identifies the quality and nature of the goods, e.g. if the customer expects the product to be authentic (100% pure and natural from the species and origin referred to), then the customer should not be left in any doubt over its quality.
- The guidelines from IFRA (International Fragrance Association), IOFI (International Organisation of the Flavour Industry) and those set out in the EFFA Code of Practice should be adopted. However, in all cases, members are required to follow existing rules for safety classification and labelling in their country of origin.
- It is recognised that commercial demands from the customer may require specific name labelling; while consideration may be given to the customers requirements for labelling, every effort should be made to advise the customer of the true identity of the goods.
- It is not obligatory to label products with origin unless it is necessary to identify the specific quality of the goods (e.g. Sandalwood Oil - West Indian). However, to prevent any misunderstanding, this information must be included in a technical or product information sheet.

**General Recommendations**

In order to retain industry respect and consumer confidence within the wider market, EFEO recommends to its members they provide all necessary transparency on the market they deal with. In order to achieve this, members should endeavour to apply the following criteria when producing or purchasing raw materials:

- Establish reliable sources of supply irrespective of whether they are producers at origin, importers or distributors.
- Communicate with the supply chain and relay market information to customers.
- Take into consideration an adequate relationship between quality and price, when purchasing.
- Record and be prepared to demonstrate traceability of goods.
- Communicate and label goods such that any misunderstanding over quality does not occur.
- Audit your supply chain.



### **Material Safety Data Sheets**

Members shall provide Safety Data Sheets in accordance with the requirements laid down in Art.31 and Annex II of Regulation ( EC) No. 1907/2006 on “ REACH” as published in the OJ of the EU, L 396 , 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2006, or any revised version. Without prejudice to applicable law, members will make use of recommended uniformed material safety data sheets if issued by EFEO.

### **Use of Essential Oils**

EFEO members will take into consideration relevant information on the correct classification and labelling of Essential Oils as per the EFEO Position Paper on C&L dated 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept.2005 (or its latest revision), the IFRA/IOFI Code of Practice, or additional specific labelling information issued by EFEO.

Members will also take into consideration information/recommendations from the EFEO Technical Committee which will collect and process data relevant for the safe use of Essential Oils.

EFEO does not endorse the promotion of Essential Oils for their medical or holistic properties and will not promote or defend these products claiming to have such properties to any local, national or international authorities. Members giving advice on application or dosage relating to medicinal, therapeutic or holistic effects do so without the support of EFEO and are advised to consider the relevant national laws of the market in which they are trading.

Members will act in accordance with their relevant national laws applicable to the business operation concerned, particularly the relevant legislation on

- cosmetic law
- detergent law
- foodstuff law
- pharmaceutical law
- animal feed law
- use in tobacco products

and any other legislation, including dangerous substance law and dangerous good transportation law, applying to the product at the stage of their specific trade or for the specific use intended by the members.

### **Labour conditions, Corporate integrity, Environmental conduct**

E.F.E.O. expects their members to comply with the standards set by the International Labour Organisation ILO, and to apply working conditions and occupational safety measures stipulated by the applicable national legislation.

E.F.E.O. recommends their members to keep their business conduct free of dishonest methods and to strictly abstain from any agreements and arrangements restraining the free competition.

E.F.E.O. encourages their members to apply responsible operating and production methods with a view to the protection of the environment. Members are expected to consider their responsibility over the use and handling of resources such as water and energy and to proper waste management in line with applicable law.



### **Obligations under this Code of Conduct**

EFEO members commit themselves to support the overall targets and objectives laid down in the EFEO Statutes and to actively contribute to EFEO activities.

Members are expected to make use of the information sources offered by EFEO. In this respect, reference is made to the EFEO website under <http://www.efeo-org.org> , particularly to the EFEO list of Essential Oils which will permanently be reviewed and updated.

EFEO members commit themselves to follow recommendations issued by EFEO.

EFEO Members are expected to contribute to the promotion of a positive image of the Federation and of the products falling under the scope of this Code of Conduct.

*Last amendment: June 14, 2011*