

Cosmetic Peptide Sourcing Checklist

A practical checklist for brand owners, formulators and buyers evaluating cosmetic peptide suppliers. Work through it before you place a production order.

1 · Define your requirement before you ask for a price

- **Intended use** — topical cosmetic formulation, and the product form (serum, cream, mask, scalp).
- **Grade** — cosmetic grade, stated explicitly. Not laboratory or pharmaceutical grade.
- **Quantity** — evaluation quantity, first production order, and expected annual volume.
- **Destination country** — so freight, duty and any labelling implications can be quoted.
- **Whether you need third-party testing** on the batch, or in-house COA is sufficient.
- **Whether you need custom labels**, and by when.

2 · Request the same package from every supplier

- **Batch-specific COA** for the material that would actually ship — with a batch number.
- **TDS / specification sheet**, with a version or date.
- **MSDS** in the format required for your market.
- **Purity and the method used** — “≥98%” means nothing without the method.
- **Identity confirmation** by mass spectrometry, with observed vs theoretical mass.
- **Content assay**, if concentration accuracy matters to your formula (it usually does).
- **Recommended use level** and pH guidance for the material in a typical system.
- **COAs from several recent batches**, to gauge consistency rather than capability.

3 · Compare quotations on the same basis

- **Normalise to cost per gram of active**, not cost per gram of material.
- **Confirm the Incoterm** — EXW, FOB, CIF or DDP are not comparable as quoted.
- **Add freight, duty and import handling** to get landed cost.
- **Add your own incoming testing** — it is part of the real cost.
- **Check what is included**: documentation, third-party testing, label work are often quoted separately.
- **Ask how long the price holds**, and what triggers a change.

4 · Check on delivery — before the goods go into production

- **Verify the batch number** on the label against the COA you were sent. If they differ, stop.
- **Inspect the packaging** for damage and moisture ingress, and note it on the delivery paperwork.
- **Check the appearance** against the specification — for copper peptides, against the expected colour.
- **Weigh or count** the quantity received against the packing list.
- **Photograph** the material and packaging as received.

5 · File it, by batch number

- COA for the batch, filed under the batch number — not the order date.
- Specification sheet the batch was made against, with its version or date.
- MSDS, in the format required for your market.
- Purchase record tying the batch number to the supplier, date and quantity.
- Your own incoming check record — appearance, weight, who received it.
- Third-party report, where you commissioned one.
- Your trial-batch stability results, if you ran one.

Why the batch number matters. A certificate of analysis that is not tied to a specific batch cannot be verified against anything. Comparing the number on the COA with the number on the label takes seconds and catches the most common failure in this market.

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