RIFM Fragrance Ingredient Safety Assessment Authorship and Process

The mission of the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials (RIFM, Rifm.org), with the assistance of the independent Expert Panel for Fragrance Safety (Expert Panel, FragranceSafetyPanel.org), is to provide a scientific basis for the safe use of fragrance for the protection of consumers and the environment. This is accomplished through research, analysis, and publication of relevant data on fragrance materials.

RIFM Fragrance Ingredient Safety Assessment authors consist of RIFM science and editorial staff and the Expert Panel for Fragrance Safety members. Each author contributes to the safety assessment based on their expertise in a specific area of toxicology (e.g., genotoxicity, dermatotoxicology, etc.), chemistry, or consumer exposure.

Since 2015, RIFM and Expert Panel scientists have published Safety Assessments covering 2,000 discrete and Natural Complex Substance (NCS) fragrance-producing ingredients in the peer-reviewed literature. RIFM's substantial output – requiring dozens of assessments to be peer-reviewed and published every year – is the product of earlier exercises in prioritization via granular chemical clustering, the specific expertise of the authors, and the clear step-by-step approach outlined in the Criteria Documents for discrete and NCS materials (see Criteria for the RIFM safety evaluation process for fragrance ingredients and The RIFM approach to evaluating Natural Complex Substances, respectively).

In addition, RIFM and the Expert Panel reevaluate all Fragrance Material Safety Assessments at least five years after their initial publication. If necessary, an "Update to" version of an Assessment is written to incorporate any new, impactful data.

Each Fragrance Material Safety Assessment's and Update's authors' affiliation is noted in a footnote to their name on the Title Page at the beginning of the Assessment. Conflict of Interest statements are on file with the publisher, Elsevier, for every Assessment. Finally, each assessment additionally undergoes rigorous independent editorial and peer review according to journal policies before publication in Food and Chemical Toxicology. Such rigorous review assures that the data has been analyzed and presented in a scientifically sound and unbiased manner.