



Schweizerischer Kosmetik-  
und Waschmittelverband

Association suisse des cosmétiques  
et des détergents

The Swiss Cosmetic  
and Detergent Association

## How to become a member

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## **I. History, organization, purpose**

### **1. History and meaning**

The Swiss Cosmetic and Detergent Association (SKW) is the leading Swiss national association of the cosmetics, detergent and cleaning products industry and the soap producers.

Its 78 members pull in domestic sales of more than CHF 4 billion (prices ex factory) and employ more than 5500 people.

The SKW was created in 2001 with the merger of the “Verband Schweizerischer Seifenfabrikanten” (Association of Swiss soap producers), which was founded in 1899 and renamed to “Verband der Schweizerischen Seifen- und Waschmittelindustrie” (Association of the Swiss soap and detergent industry) in 1988, and the “Verband der Schweizerischen Kosmetikindustrie” (Association of the Swiss cosmetics industry), founded in 1934.

The SKW is affiliated with the European umbrella organizations „International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products” (A.I.S.E.) and „The European Cosmetics Association” (COLIPA).

At national level, the SKW is a member of economiesuisse (Swiss Business Federation), Ginetex-Switzerland (Swiss Association for Textile Labelling), Interessengemeinschaft (IG) Industrie Schweiz (Swiss Industry interest group) and the Comité Suisse des Dérivés Tensio-Actifs (Swiss Committee for Surface-active Derivatives).

### **2. Organization**

The SKW is an association established pursuant to Art. 60ff of the Swiss Civil Code. The bodies of the Association are the General Assembly, the Managing Board, the Audit Body, and the Administration in Zurich.

The SKW Administration consists of the Director (Dr. iur. Bernard Cloëtta), the Manager Finance and Office (Ms Marina Mannes) and the Manager Communications (Ms Prisca Lack).

With this compact structure – a total of 2.7 full-time jobs – the SKW must be able to rely on the close collaboration of its members. This mix has turned out very efficient and strengthens the members’ identification with “their” Association.

The SKW organization chart can be viewed in our mission statement and on our website at [www.skw-cds.ch](http://www.skw-cds.ch).

### **3. Purpose according to the Articles of Incorporation**

According to Article 2 of the Articles of Incorporation, the purpose of the SKW is to protect and promote the common interests of the cosmetics and detergent industries and their individual sectors, in particular by:

- representing them in dealings with the authorities, official bodies, business associations,
- consumer organizations, and the media

- acting on their behalf as a collective member of international industry associations
- promoting contact among the members

#### **4. Main Activities**

The SKW's major tasks and fields of activities include in particular:

##### **internally**

- promptly and permanently processing and forwarding information about new technological and legal developments on a national and international scale
- recording, processing, analyzing and communicating trends, statistics and key data
- promoting contacts and exchange of experiences among the members and the industry and production partners
- setting annual aims and reporting openly on all activities and projects

##### **externally**

- representing the industry vis-à-vis members of the Swiss Parliament, the authorities and the media
- collaborating with business associations, consumer organizations and technical colleges
- representing Swiss viewpoints in the European umbrella organizations
- drafting statements about proposed bills or official requests
- actively exchanging information with scientific institutes
- keeping a list of members, their sales and production programs and brand names
- supplying and distributing information material and technical brochures

Further information about our aims, our activities, and our organization is available in our mission statement.

## **II. Advantages of being an SKW member**

### **1. Strong network**

- Being considered the „Voice of the Industry“, the SKW is an indispensable instrument for sustaining the industry's interests in politics, economy and society. One of the Association's fundamental tasks is to jointly achieve goals and help each other.
- New personal contacts and an open exchange of experiences with the decision-makers of the most important national and international companies in the industry
- Better access to industry and product partners, international umbrella organizations (A.I.S.E. und COLIPA), politicians, authorities, the media, and NGOs

## **2. Permanent exchange of know-how and experiences**

- Participation in national and international events and in the Association's conferences (e.g. on the EU Directive on Cosmetic Products or the new Swiss Chemicals Law)
- Permanent exchange of know-how and experiences among technology responsables due to the access to interesting events, working groups and technological committees

## **3. Early participation in setting the general framework**

- Due to early information on the start and the progression of national and international legal projects, the SKW members have a lead over their competitors when it comes to producing and distributing their products.
- Direct influence on Swiss legislation, participation in addressing statements, applications and interventions to authorities, public offices, and politicians (e.g. consultation processes, approaches, applications)
- Personal participation in setting the general framework for the industry (e.g. Chemicals Law, Cosmetic Law etc.)

## **4. Important current issues and information**

- Direct information from the European umbrella organizations COLIPA and AISE, access to their events, publications and services
- Unlimited access to the SKW Extranet allowing a permanent flow of information (e.g. internal statements, SKW notifications, internal dates, well-structured press review)
- Fast information on changes in legislation, innovations on the market, and new technology on a Swiss and a European scale

## **5. Better distribution channels for the industry's products**

- Online presence of brands and distribution and production programs and access to a well-established information network leading to new channels of distribution
- Better standing of the member companies on the market due to their membership to the Association and their consequent commitment to the SKW's mission statement

## **6. Facts and figures of the industry**

- Participation in the SKW statistics (e.g. sale, raw materials, revenue and production prices) allowing free access to the most important market figures.

## **7. Useful services and contacts**

- Creation and authentication of Free Sale Certificates for the export of products
- National and international contacts to experts and to specialist institutions all around the world
- Assistance in questions related to legislation (Switzerland and EU) and technical issues
- Efficient public relations through permanent contacts with the media

- Free information material and technical brochures for members and consumer and educational institutions

### **III. How to become a member**

#### **1. Membership requirements**

- Every company developing, producing or distributing cosmetics, detergents, cleansers or related products can, if registered in the Commercial Register, become a member of the SKW.
- Companies must apply for membership in writing. Their admission to the Association is subject to the decision of the Managing Board.

#### **2. Membership fees**

Every year, the General Assembly looks at the domestic sales pulled in by its members in the cosmetics, detergent and cleanser industry to set the membership fees. The General Assembly can set the membership fees on the basis of an assignment of costs that is in compliance with the industry's standards.

#### **3. How to become a member**

We would very much like to convince you personally of the advantages that your company can enjoy as a member of our Association. Do not hesitate to contact us.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to providing you with any further information.

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#### **Address:**

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