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Green Science Policy Institute
www.GreenSciencePolicy.org
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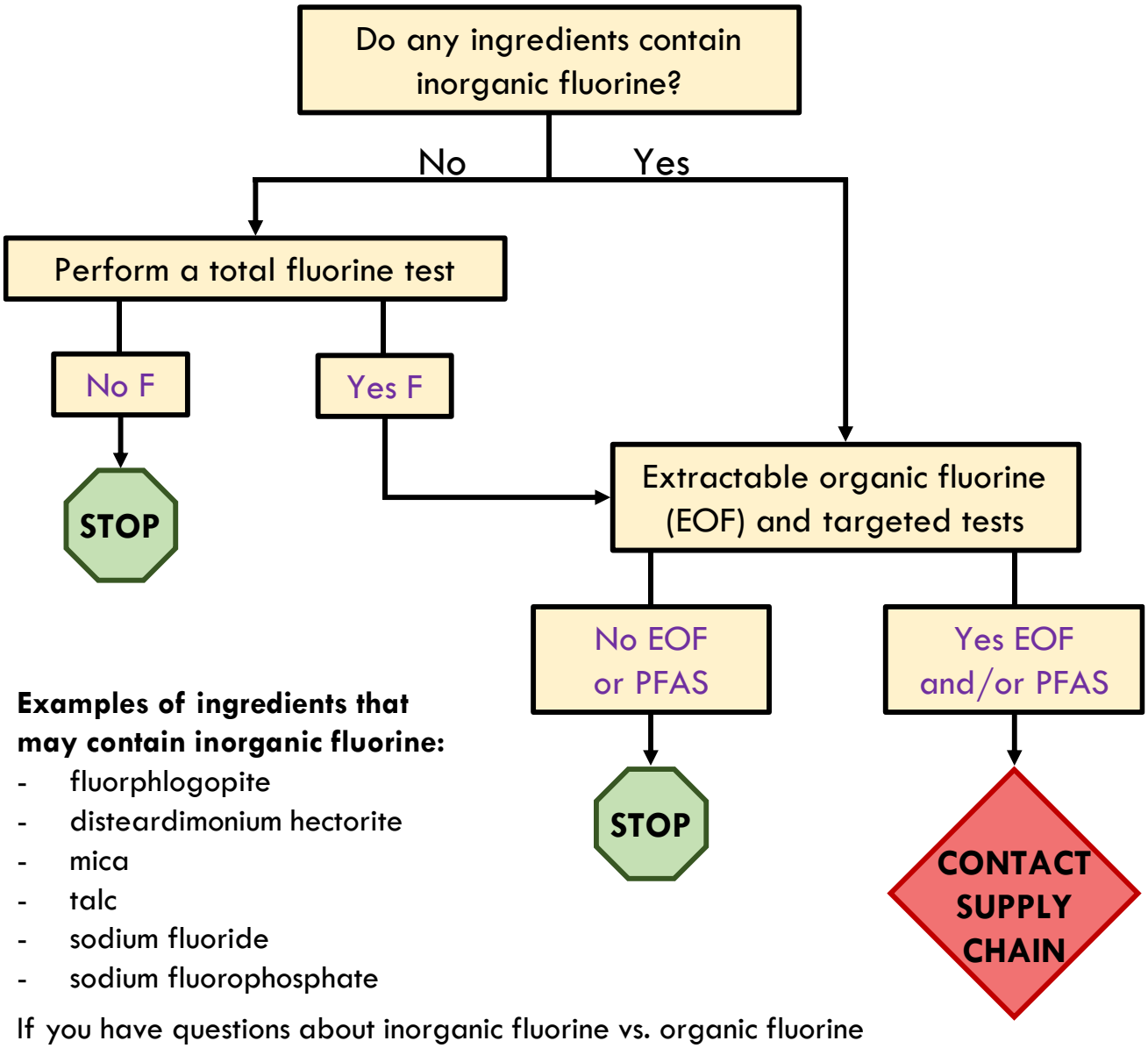
Testing cosmetics products for PFAS

Step 1: Screen your ingredient lists for PFAS: the list here is more comprehensive than the INCI list of PFAS and includes PFAS that should be avoided in your products. If any are present, work with your supply chain to eliminate them.

Step 2: Send your products to an analytical lab for testing. Use this diagram to determine which tests are best for you; more information is below.



Examples of ingredients that may contain inorganic fluorine:

- fluorphlogopite
- disteardimonium hectorite
- mica
- talc
- sodium fluoride
- sodium fluorophosphate

If you have questions about inorganic fluorine vs. organic fluorine and PFAS, email Info@GreenSciencePolicy.org.

When working with your supply chain, be sure to consider both the cosmetics ingredients as well as packaging materials.

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Laboratories that perform PFAS testing

- SGS AXYS
- Eurofins Scientific
- Galbraith Laboratories, Inc.
- Vista Analytical
- ALS Global

These laboratories have experience measuring fluorine or PFAS in products, so reach out to them to see if their services would work for you. Tests are generally $150-400 per sample. This list is not exhaustive. Always make sure the tests have acceptable detection limits and test for a variety of individual PFAS. See below.

Testing options for fluorine and PFAS in cosmetics

Total Fluorine: This test measures all fluorine present in a sample. While it is simple and inexpensive, it also measures inorganic fluorine which is present in many cosmetics and is not considered harmful. Total fluorine testing is most helpful for cosmetics that contain no ingredients with inorganic fluorine.

Total Extractable Organofluorine (EOF): This test first removes inorganic fluorine and then measures the concentration of organic fluorine, which is representative of total PFAS. This test is beneficial because it is relatively low-cost and provides information about all PFAS, including those not captured in targeted tests.

Targeted Analysis: This test determines the concentrations of specific PFAS compounds. Results from targeted analysis can be extremely helpful to your brand's investigation of how PFAS are entering your supply chain. Targeted analysis should include several PFAS from each of the following classes at minimum: perfluorinated alkyl phosphates, fluorotelomer alcohols, fluorotelomer methacrylates, fluorotelomer acrylates, and carboxylic acids.

Note that different laboratory testing results can vary based on the lab's instrumentation, methods, and which PFAS they are testing. If you have questions while talking with laboratories or would like to review your results, please contact Lydia@GreenSciencePolicy.org.

Disguised PFAS? The following ingredients may actually be fluorinated (even though they do not contain "fluoro" in the name) and may be a good place to start your investigation:

- acrylate
- methacrylate
- methicone
- dimethicone
- synthetic mica
- various pigments
- synthetic fluorphlogopite

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