

Where did the term cosmeceutical originate?

The term cosmeceutical was first used and introduced to the world by Albert M. Kligman at a meeting of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists in 1980. It was his intention to bridge the description gap and offer a new category that he felt was missing with the advancements being made within the skin care industry.

Where it all started:

In 1938 the U.S. Congress enacted law to differentiate the difference between what would be classified as a drug and what would be classified as a cosmetic. Below is the basic law that described each and to this day is the same:

Cosmetic: ...intended for beautifying and promoting attractiveness

Drug: ...to affect the structure and function of the body

The FDC (Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act) makes the following definitions:

Cosmetic: ... intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled, or sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body or any part thereof for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance without affecting structure or function

Drug: ... intended for use in the diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease or intended to affect the structure or any function of the body

This phrase ‘...to affect the structure and function of the body’ is what promoted Albert M. Kligman to coin the phrase cosmeceutical. To this day, this word provokes lively debates that may either strengthen our understanding of cosmetic products or grey the line the users of this word are trying to cross.

How it relates?

If this definition were never introduced, how would we classify the different types of cosmetics that are clearly not drugs but can and do promote a much higher level of skin health by penetrating the skin and affecting its structure. This classification within the United States and for that matter the world, allows a higher quality product proven within the medical field to be classified as a sub class of a drug without having to go through the huge expense and requirements that a drug must go through.

Classification for a drug is a very time intensive and financially exhausting process.

Probably the single most important aspect of how this classification has changed the way we view a drug vs cosmetic is that it allows the market to expand and to promote products that range from the preposterous to the persuasive, and cover the spectrum from the rational to the irrational. With so many different choices and so many companies working on the next big skin care product, the non regulated classification of cosmeceutical allows for these innovations to come to market in months instead of years. It allows for the consumer and for the market as a whole to decide the success or failure of these products.

Talks directly about Serene ‘Professional Skin Care’, took out since this is not a direct sales tool.